# Gloria won't replace anti-crime task force

STORY ON PAGE A2

## SSS plan to hike premiums opposed

BY MARTIN MARFIL, ARMAND NOCUM AND JOWEL CANUDAY
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SPEAKER Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte yesterday expressed surprise over plans by the Social Security System (SSS) to raise the monthly dues paid by its 23 million members, saying that the

SSS/ A6

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- **Erap nemesis top PNP spy** NEWS / A4
- **3 youths beheaded in QC** METRO / A25
- **MILF names negotiators** NEWS / A2

MUG shots of the accused, Joseph Ejercito Estrada, in Cases No. 26559 to 26564 taken on Monday at the Sandiganbayan. FILMGRAB/PTV4

## 'They harass everyone who is close to me'

"I DON'T know what is happening to this government. They harass everyone who is close to me."

Deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday denied he connived with his spiritual adviser, Mariano "Brother Mike" Velarde, in a land purchase deal that allegedly defrauded the government of some P800 million.

Velarde allegedly sold a total of 79,638 square meters of land to the government for P1.2 billion when its declared market value was only P52.1 million.

He said the Macapagal administration implicated Velarde, his co-respondent in the 11th plunder and graft charges filed against him before the Ombudsman, because the administra-

THEY/ A20

# Dacer case solved—PNP

## Police to present 10 suspects today

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

**THE DACER-CORBITO murders have been solved.**

**Ten suspects, including an officer of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), who may turn state witness, will be presented to the media today at Camp Crame.**

This was revealed to the INQUIRER by Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG). He said the CIDG has identified the plotters and the killers of Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito.

"We can say that the Dacer-Corbito murder case is solved. We are prepared to turn over the suspects and the documentary evidence to the state prosecutors for their recommendation on filing of the charges against the conspirators and those involved in the killings," Gualberto told the INQUIRER.

"But the investigation continues until we are in a position to reveal the mastermind," he said.

"We have the complete picture as to what happened from the surveillance and abduction to the killing. Who ordered the killing will be made public soon," Gualberto added.

Gualberto refused to reveal the identity of the suspect who is set to turn state witness pending the filing of charges against the conspirators.

"We have to be very careful because two of the suspects are believed to have been killed already," Gualberto said.

Gualberto and PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza are scheduled to meet at 7 a.m. today at the Edsa Plaza Hotel with Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño to discuss the case.

They will reportedly proceed to the abduction scene at corner Zobel Roxas Street and the South Superhighway in Makati from where Dacer and his driver were allegedly brought to Indang, Cavite, where they were killed. Reenactments of the abduction and the murders are scheduled to be conducted.

Mendoza said, "We expect to wrap up the resolution of the case within the week as we have already a complete cast of characters who played the role in the conspiracy to kill Dacer."

Gualberto said that based on the affidavits of the suspects Dacer was abducted on Nov. 24 at 10 a.m. and was killed at around 8 p.m. the same day.

DACER/ A20

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TRADA

THE MESSAGE is clear and bold by the subdivision gate of North Greenhills in San Juan where Estrada supporters are camped out to protect their president against arrest. ERIK ARAZAS

## Erap to sue Inquirer on Dacer story

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

"I'M BEING portrayed as a murderer this time."

An incensed Joseph Estrada yesterday said he would file a libel suit against the INQUIRER for its banner story on Tuesday that tagged him as the mastermind in the abduction and murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and driver Manuel Corbito.

The ousted President noted that while the story implicated him by quoting an unnamed source, it stated that his name was never mentioned in any formal deposition from the four policemen, who surrendered last week and confessed to taking part in the brutal killings.

"I already saw a copy of the report and it did not even mention

ERAP/ A20

**SUPERSTARS** JOAN BONDOC

President Macapagal is said to look like actress Nora Aunor, or at least, she tried to during her first campaign for a Senate seat. Aunor, who is now a candidate for Camarines Sur governor pays a courtesy call on the President.

## Erap arrest will have minimal effect on economy, says Gloria

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said Joseph Estrada's arrest and prosecution for alleged corruption should have little effect on the Philippine economy.

She said her administration was "not bothered" by the street protests staged Monday by supporters after the Sandiganbayan ordered his arrest.

"There will be minimal effect on the economy," the President said at a news conference in Malacañang. "The effect on the economy would be worse if we were not to pursue justice."

She also offered a birthday wish for Estrada, who will mark his 64th birthday tomorrow: "I hope he will find peace in his heart."

Both Ms Macapagal and her disgraced predecessor were born under the zodiac sign of Aries. She celebrated her 53rd birthday on April 5.

"The effect on the economy will be worse if we were not to pursue justice," she stressed during her press conference yesterday.

To claims by Estrada's family members, his supporters, senatorial candidates of the Puwersa ng Masa (PnM), and even by the ousted president himself that he was being unjustly persecuted by her administration, Ms Macapagal said she was not worried.

Asked about the claims by the opposition that an "underdog" Estrada could win more votes for the PnM candidates, she said: "Then they shouldn't worry."

Former President Corazon Aquino has her own advice for Estrada.

"I'd like to tell him that in times of trial, the best thing to do is to pray and to offer all our problems to the Lord," she told reporters.

On the move of Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to withdraw five graft cases against Estrada, Aquino expressed the belief that the Ombudsman knew what he was doing. *(See story on Page A1.)*

"There are people advising (Desierto)," Aquino said. "What he is after is that the law be followed and due process given to all concerned."

ERAP ARREST/ A19

## Estrada: I feel semi-exonerated

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN, VOLT CONTRERAS AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

GOVERNMENT prosecutors have withdrawn five graft cases against Joseph Estrada to allow them to concentrate on the plunder charge that is "the crux of the whole case," Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said yesterday.

"This is only temporary," Desierto said at a press conference. "It's just because (Estrada's lawyers) might raise the issue of double jeopardy and go again to the Supreme Court and delay" his prosecution.

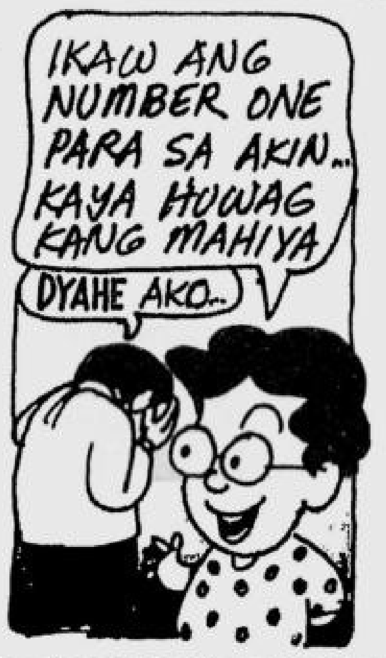
Estrada, however, took the news with an air of vindication: "I feel semi-exonerated already."

"That only goes to show that they've been prosecuting me with all those cases because they're media-crazy and just want to do some grandstanding," he told the INQUIRER in Taglish in a phone interview.

Raymund Fortun, a member of the disgraced leader's legal team, said Desierto was making "a gamble and a big mistake."

"It is very clear now that at the very least the Office of the Ombudsman does not know what it is doing," Fortun said, adding: "We

ESTRADA/ A19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DYAHE AKO...

## *Cory advice to Tañada: Don't be shy*

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

FORMER President Corazon Aquino rarely makes a sales pitch for anyone but she is doing it for People Power Coalition senatorial candidate Wigberto "Bobby" Tañada.

In fact, Ms Aquino yesterday taped a television commercial for Tañada and even gave the soft-spoken senatorial bet some tips on how to conduct himself in public.

CORY/ A19

DAPAT LANG MABUWAG NA YAN!

# Gloria won't replace PAOCTF

By Armand N. Nocum

**PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the abolition of the controversial Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, but dropped plans to create a new anti-crime body to replace it.**

"We don't need shadows in the government," the President said at a press briefing, referring to the PAOCTF as a "shadow Philippine National Police". Presidential spokesperson Renato Corona earlier said the executive order abolishing the PAOCTF would also provide for the creation of a new anti-crime group which would be placed under the PNP command.

But the President said she decided to scrap the provision when she signed Executive Order No. 10, which abolished the PAOCTF.

She stressed that her administration "is a government of transparency where accountability is institutional."

She said there was no need for government to create a new task force to fight crime.

"The work done by the PAOCTF will be done by the PNP, specifically by PNP Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane," she said. Ebdane is the former head of PAOCTF.

The President also denied claims by former PNP chief and PAOCTF head Panfilo Lacson that her decision to abolish the agency was influenced by a supposed report linking certain PAOCTF members to heinous crimes.

MACAPAGAL

Lacson, who is now running for the Senate, asked that the President declassify the report.

The President said there was no report for her to make public.

"Even without declassifying whatever reports I have received about PAOCTF activities in the previous administration, you've seen enough on television to justify the abolition," she said, referring to reports linking some PAOCTF members to the killing of public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver.

She also clarified that the newly created Anti-Crime Task Force (Actaf), formed to assist the PNP in fighting kidnapping and smuggling, will not be taking over the functions of the PAOCTF.

She said the Actaf was a military body while "the accountability for fighting crimes belong to the PNP."

# Gov't, Danding square off anew

By Delmar Cariño
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAGUIO CITY—Lawyers for the government and businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. faced off before the Supreme Court yesterday in a battle for control of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

Appearing before an en banc session of the high tribunal here, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo argued for the Presidential Commission on Good Government's continued sequestration of Cojuangco's UCPB shares, saying they were ill-gotten as they had been purchased with public funds.

Marcelo said Cojuangco used funds from the coconut levy, which had been imposed by the government's power of taxation, to gain control of the bank's voting rights.

But former Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, Cojuangco's lawyer, said his client's shares were acquired legitimately as they had been bought as part of a normal economic enterprise.

## Not a cent

"Not a single cent of public funds were used to purchase Mr. Cojuangco's shares or assets," Mendoza insisted during the five-hour hearing.

The high court called for a full session to hear the government's petition seeking to reverse an order by the Sandiganbayan on Feb. 28 allowing Cojuangco and the Philippine Coconut Producers Inc. (Cocofed) to exercise their voting rights at the UCPB.

Marcelo and the PCGG said the anti-graft court had issued the order with grave abuse of discretion, as the shares were still under sequestration.

In asking the high court to reverse the Feb. 28 Sandiganbayan order, Marcelo said the coconut levy had been imposed under Presidential Decree Nos. 276 and 1234, making the funds collected "fiduciary funds," which should then be remitted to the National Treasury.

## No final ruling

Until the Sandiganbayan issues a final ruling on the ownership of Cojuangco's sequestered shares, the shares should remain with the state which, through the PCGG, has the right to vote the shares, Marcelo said.

He said there was "imminent danger of dissipation" once the shares are reverted back to Cojuangco.

The high court said it would decide the issue once the parties have filed their memorandums after 15 days.

Lawyer Mario Ongkiko, representing the coconut farmers, said Cojuangco also failed to show how he capitalized his UCPB investments.

Efren Villaseñor, president of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Sambayanang Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyogan, said his group was looking into the possibility of filing a plunder suit against the people who enriched themselves using the coco levy.

"I wish the public would not look at this as just a corporate issue. This is about justice," Villaseñor said. *With reports from Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# MILF names peace talks negotiators

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday announced its "nominees" to its peace panel to be led by no less than its military chief Al Haj Murad.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the other members of the group's peace panel were the front's legal counsel Lanang Ali, former Maguindanao Rep. Michael Mastura, lawyer Allan Flores of Iligan City and educator Dr. Ahmad Domocao Alonto of Marawi City.

Kabalu said except for Murad, the four still have to "formally accept their nominations because they are non-organic members of the MILF."

But Kabalu admitted that the nomination seems final as no replacements had been named.

Murad led the MILF in the March 23 Kuala Lumpur meeting with government representatives, which ended with the signing of an interim agreement for the resumption of the talks.

Kabalu said with Murad as MILF panel chair, the government is assured that he will be speaking in behalf of the Moro group "because he is carrying the most powerful sector of the MILF, the armed wing of the movement."

Kabalu said although Murad's stand remains to be "hardline" toward independence, the MILF is optimistic an agreement would be forged.

## War veteran

"That depends, of course, on the sincerity of the government to finally resolve the Mindanao problem," he said.

A veteran of the Mindanao war, the 54-year-old Murad holds the rank of an MILF general and is considered by MILF commanders as a "war tactician."

Murad is former engineering student at the catholic-run Notre Dame University in Cotabato City. He was one of the pioneering recruits that trained in foreign countries.*Charlie C. Señase, Allan A. Nawal, Edwin O. Fernandez and Nico Alconaba, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Gordon to US: Go easy on advisories

By Jerome Aning

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon yesterday asked the United States government to be "more circumspect" in issuing travel advisories limiting the travel of its citizens to a foreign country.

Gordon said there should be a restriction on travel advisories that "drive away potential visitors and tourists from the country for the wrong reason."

He was referring to a recent travel advisory that warned American tourists against traveling to the Malaysian resort-island of Sipadan in Sabah state and to Mindanao.

Gordon said a similar advisory issued by the Japanese government has also adversely affected the influx of Japanese tourists to the Philippines.

Gordon made the statement to reporters shortly after a meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur.

The secretary is in the Malaysian capital to participate in the conference of the Pacific-Asia Travel Association, where the secretary also raised the issue of travel advisories.

"With one ill-advised travel advisory, the Philippine tourism industry dipped to new lows beginning last year," Gordon told PATA members.

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# Axed Comelec media chief defies Benipayo with 4 commissioners' backing

BY G. G. LACUARTA

THE AXED information chief of the Commission on Elections continued to defy chair Alfredo Benipayo, insisting that her relief was illegal and void as the order did not come from the full Comelec.

Lawyer Ma. Angelina Matibag, director of the education and information department (EID) of the Comelec, said she was relieved without cause and was deprived of due process.

"Four commissioners told me to stay put," she said. "The en banc is with me."

Matibag referred to Commissioners Mehol Sadain, Luzviminda Tancangco, Rufino Javier, and Ralph Lantion, who compose a majority in the en banc. The other members of the en banc are Benipayo, and Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr.

Sadain, commissioner-in-charge for the Comelec media committee, objected to the manner of Matibag's relief, saying there was a need to "accord courtesy and due recognition to the commissioners in-charge by at least consulting or informing them in advance of actions which the chair intends to undertake in their areas of responsibility."

"The single-handed arrogation by the chair of all administrative functions of the Commission, ultimately means that there is no need for the Commission to hold en banc meetings to decide administrative, financial and other non-judicial or non-quasi judicial agenda because the chair can discharge these tasks all by himself," Sadain said in a memorandum to Benipayo.

Tancangco, who had an earlier word war with Benipayo over her chairmanship of the printing committee, Lantion and Javier echoed Sadain's position in marginal notes written in Sadain's memorandum.

"I fully concur with Commissioner Sadain on this," Tancango wrote down.

Javier and Lantion, on the other hand, said Benipayo should recall his memorandum dated April 11 relieving Matibag and instead let the en banc approve his memorandum through a resolution.

Benipayo has relieved Matibag for her alleged unsatisfactory handling of the public information drive for the May 14 elections. The EID publishes public information materials and issues press statements of the Comelec.

Benipayo designated Matibag's immediate subordinate, director Velma Cinco, as officer in charge of the EID.

"With less than a month before the election, I am not satisfied with the unproductive performance of the EID," Benipayo said. "I want a more intensified information drive."

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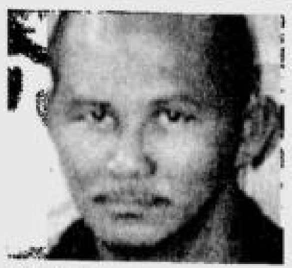
# Gloria orders rescue of last of Abu hostages


ULLAH

By Armand Nocum

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the military to intensify operations against the Abu Sayyaf in order to rescue the last hostage, a Filipino, being held by the extremists.

"Our remaining mission is to save Roland Ullah from the hands of the bandits and wipe out the Abu Sayyaf so they can no longer wreak havoc on our country," the President said in a televised news conference.

Ms Macapagal also acknowledged the primary role played by a Muslim policeman and his son in the rescue of American Jeffrey Schilling last Thursday.

She said the military official who related to her the story of the rescue may not have given the full details of the large role played by the policeman and his son because the official did not have "jurisdiction" over the Philippine National Police.

The President said she had directed the military to "intensify the rescue operations for the safe return of Roland Ullah; to pursue the remnants of the Abu Sayyaf; and, to bring their leaders to justice."

### War's not yet over

"The war in Sulu island is not yet over," the President said, reading from a prepared statement.

She said that although the successful military operations have divided the Abu Sayyaf forces, efforts to bring peace to Mindanao has not yet been achieved.

Ullah, a Filipino dive resort worker, was among 21 Westerners and Asians abducted by the Abu Sayyaf bandits from the Malaysian dive resort of Sipadan in April 23 last year and brought by speedboats to the Philippines in one of the worst hostage-takings in the region in recent years.

Foreign journalists covering the kidnappings were later also seized by the extremists. All the hostages except Ullah were freed in exchange for huge dollar ransoms.

Schilling, a Muslim convert, was detained by the bandits when he and his Filipino wife, a cousin of one of the extremists, walked into an Abu Sayyaf camp last August.

### Real rescue heroes

The President said she was inviting to Manila the father and son who were largely responsible for the rescue of Schilling.

Reports said that it was SPO3 Hajim Timbang and his son Nizmar who stumbled upon Schilling in an Abu Sayyaf hideout in Sulu.

The reports said that the two had already brought Schilling out of the hideout when a military and police team arrived at the camp.

The two reportedly had placed Schilling on a motorcycle and were riding past the sleeping Abu Sayyaf who, alerted by the sound of the motorcycle engine, started firing at them. It was at this point that the Marines arrived on the scene.

Military officials who accompanied Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva to present Schilling to the President in Baguio City last Saturday apparently failed to give Ms Macapagal an account of Nizmar's role in the rescue.

All they did was to give a general acknowledgment of the role of the combined military and police team.

"When the rescue was recounted in Baguio, the officers who told the story did say that it was a joint effort of the military and the police," the President said.

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# Erap, Ping nemesis is top PNP spy

By Dave Veridiano

SENIOR Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, the nemesis of ousted President Joseph Estrada and former police chief Panfilo Lacson, is now the top spy of the Philippine National Police.

After being in limbo for more than four years, Berroya finally got an official posting yesterday. He was designated chief of the PNP-Intelligence Group (PNP-IG) by his mistah, PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza. Berroya, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1969, replaced Chief Supt. Romulo Sales who was made deputy chief for administration of the Taguig-based PNP National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

Lacson promptly assailed the appointment, saying it was "a mockery of the entire police service" to appoint a convicted kidnapper as chief of the police intelligence.

"It's like appointing a convicted rapist and child molester to head the Department of Social Welfare and Development," Lacson said.

Before being given the PNP-IG post, Berroya was reinstated to the police service by a National Police Commission resolution.

He had been dismissed from the service by Lacson, the then PNP chief, for being "AWOL," or absent without official leave.

Berroya underwent dismissal proceedings four times, only to be eventually reinstated after being exonerated.

His first dismissal from the service was in the PMA when he was accused of involvement in hazing activities.

### Coup attempts

On the second occasion, Berroya was linked to a series of failed coup attempts against the Aquino administration, but was later reinstated by then President Corazon Aquino.

The third was when he was implicated by Lacson, then his deputy at the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission headed by then Vice President Estrada, to the kidnapping of an alleged Taiwanese national named Jack Chou in May 1993.

Because of the charges, Berroya was not only dismissed from the service but also jailed for almost five years.

Berroya claimed then that the charges had been fabricated by Lacson to stop him from investigating the Lacson-led Task Force Lawin's involvement in various criminal activities, notably drugs and kidnappings.

Berroya was sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge Oscar Pimentel of the Makati Regional Trial Court for the kidnapping of Chou.

On Dec. 12, 1997, the Supreme Court reversed the decision for lack of evidence and ordered Berroya's release and reinstatement in the service.

But even while on "floating status," Berroya was instrumental in building the case against Estrada and Lacson regarding their alleged involvement in criminal activities.

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# Loi admits riding on Erap's name

By Dona Pazzibugan

EJERCITO

ALWAYS ready to give credit to her disgraced husband, opposition senatorial candidate Luisa "Loi" Ejercito readily admits that people will vote for her only because she is the wife of ousted President Joseph Estrada and not because of her own achievements.

The former first lady, who is running under the pro-Estrada Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa ticket, did not take offense at this assessment made by her own husband.

"It's really true. There's nothing wrong with that," she said.

In an interview in Naga City a couple of weeks ago, the deposed president said of his candidate-wife: "They'll be voting for her because she's the first lady of the president not for anything else."

But he also conceded that Ejercito could have gained a following from the various medical missions that she conducted around the country during his two-year incumbency.

## Same slogan

Ejercito, who decided to run after Estrada was ousted in the second People Power revolt in January, is making use of the slogan and color theme that her husband used during his 1998 presidential bid.

A psychiatrist by profession, Ejercito uses the slogan, "Doktora ng Masa" and "First Lady ng Masa," obviously taking a leaf from Estrada's own campaign line, "Erap para sa Mahirap."

The former first lady also outfits herself in orange—the color favored by her husband in his own campaign.

In her campaign sorties, Ejercito wears an orange-and-blue vest with matching orange sun visor, sunglasses and even high-heeled sandals.

She has, however, eschewed the orange wristband that her husband had popularized.

In her campaign speeches, Ejercito claims to be running for senator in order to continue her husband's "programs for the poor."

## Loi, not Erap

At the end of her speeches, she jokingly tells the crowd: "*Baka naman si Erap ang isulat ninyo. Ako po ang tumatakbo.* (Don't make the mistake of writing down Erap's name. I'm the one who's running)."

Just to show how much she is banking on Estrada's popularity, the former first lady has stopped using Ejercito, her husband's real surname, and has adopted his screen name for the campaign.

Earlier, she denied that there would be a switch before the May 14 election date, with Estrada substituting for her in the opposition slate. This is said to be a ploy by the ousted president to avoid being prosecuted for various criminal charges brought against him.

Ejercito has herself been charged with graft for allegedly pocketing a sizable portion of the P130 million tobacco excise taxes of Ilocos Sur province.

But unlike her husband, who was charged with the non-bailable crime of plunder, Ejercito will be allowed to post bail.

# PPC leads, 9-4, says Lakas poll

By Christine Avendaño

IT'S 9-4 in favor of administration candidates, in the latest in-house survey commissioned by Lakas-NUCD.

A source in the People's Power Coalition said the April 5-9 survey was the fifth done by Social Pulse Inc., a La Salle University-based survey firm, for Lakas which first commissioned it to do a survey in the first week of February. Lakas is a member of PPC.

The latest survey showed an improvement in the standings of PPC bets.

Still heading the pack though was independent Noli de Castro with 77 percent, followed closely by Sen. Juan Flavier at 76 percent.

The other PPC bets who made it were (3) Rep. Joker Arroyo (67 percent ); (4) Sen. Franklin Drilon, (67); (5) Francis Pangilinan, (65); (6) Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., (64); (7) Rep. Manny Villar (63); (8) Rep. Ralph Recto (62); (9) Sen. Serge Osmena (61.9); and (13) Rep. Ernesto Herrera (43.5).

The Puwersa ng Masa bets who made it were (10) Edgardo Angara (46); (11) Ricardo Puno (45); (12) Orlando Mercado (45).

Trailing closely was Solita Monsod, who ranked No.14 with 43.1 percent.

The source said Monsod's standing was a big jump from the previous No.17 ranking.

Fellow PPC bet Rep. Wigberto Tañada ranked No.16. The source did not disclose how PPC bets Obet Pagdanganan and Liwayway Vinzons-Chato fared in the survey.

Puwersa ng Masa candidates still in the top 20 were Panfilo Lacson who ranked 15th, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile (17th) and Sen. Miriam Santiago (18th).

The Social Pulse survey interviewed 2,100 respondents in selected key cities and municipalities in all regions in the country.

It used random sampling and the voters' list in determining its respondents, who were asked who they were to vote for if the senatorial elections would be held today. The margin of error is plus or minus 13.

The source said the first two surveys for February yielded 10-3 in favor of the candidates then perceived to be the ones PPC would be declaring.

At that time, the PPC has floated 18 names of people that were being considered as its senatorial bets.

# Serge blames political 'retazos' for GFIs' losses

GOVERNMENT financial institutions served as "personal piggy banks" of ousted President Joseph Estrada and previous administrations and there is no safeguard against this in the Macapagal administration.

This was disclosed by Sen. Sergio Osmeña III as he lamented the practice of appointing unqualified persons to the boards of government financial institutions as a political favor.

"All those who are unelected and unelectable are given these juicy posts to return political favors despite the fact that they are not qualified to run a bank." said Osmeña, who is seeking reelection under the People Power Coalition.

He said that this was the usual practice at the Social Security System, Government Service and Insurance System, Philippine National Bank and other GFIs, and other agencies like the Philippine Estates Authority and the former Asset Privatization Trust.

In a press statement while on the campaign trail in Davao City, Osmeña described these appointees as "political retazos" who know little, if not nothing, about banking."

Osmeña said these "political retazos" are pampered with multimillion-peso allowances and other perks, like regular trips abroad. These appointees, he said, mere "rubber stamps" of the incumbent administration, "be this right or wrong."

"This is exactly what happened at the SSS whose 23 million members would now have to pay for the P8 billion losses incurred during Estrada's administration," Osmeña said.

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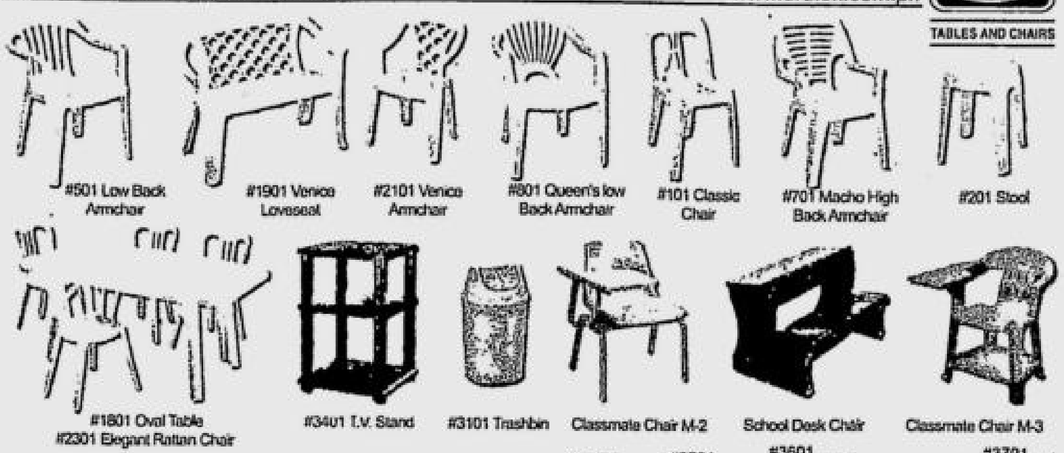
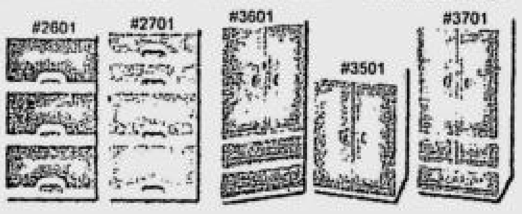
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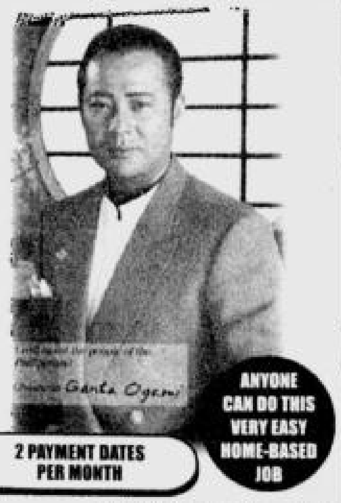
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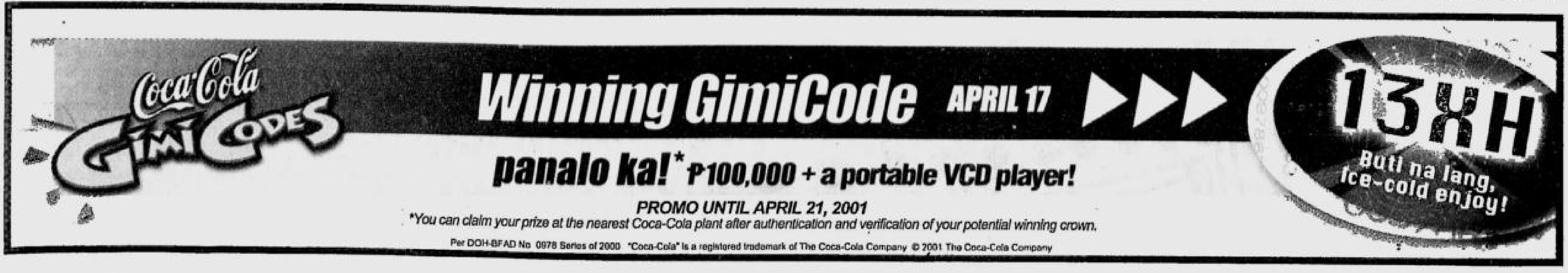
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# SSS plan to hike premiums opposed

(From page A1)

huge profits earned by the pension fund in the past could cover the losses it incurred during the Estrada administration.

He said he would oppose any move to raise membership dues without any investigation of the misuse of the SSS funds.

"A full disclosure of the financial situation of the SSS, particularly the full impact of its overindulgence in the equity market on the instigation of the former President should be made," Belmonte said.

He said the people were entitled to know the real score.

"We cannot pass the buck to the SSS members for the actions of the SSS officials," he said. "Was there criminal responsibility on the part of SSS and GSIS officials?"

"When the Estrada administration came in, SSS was in very good financial situation. So after two-and-half years, we cannot just say that it has reached a point where we now have to increase premiums. That's out of the question," Belmonte said.

But Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said increasing the monthly dues would be the only way to replenish the coffers of the SSS.

"There's no other way you can replenish it," because the "resources of the SSS were gutted by the previous administration," Romulo said.

The dues are automatically deducted from the salaries of members. At present, 8.4 percent is deducted from a member's salary. The employer contributes a counterpart fund.

President Macapagal-Arroyo assured the public that the proposed increase in monthly dues would be accompanied by "increase in benefits."

At yesterday's Cabinet meeting, SSS chair and president Vitaliano Nañagas II informed the President that the SSS lost some P8 billion last year due to bad investments.

Nañagas also said that the net income of the SSS plunged to negative P3 billion.

He said the pension fund would be enough to cover the benefits of members for only seven to 14 years had ousted President Joseph Estrada and SSS chair and president Carlos Arellano continued with their handling of the fund.

Belmonte, a president of the Government Service Insurance System during the Aquino administration, said the SSS "made so much money in the past that even if it incurred a loss of P6 billion to P8 billion, it should still be in good actuarial situation."

### Class suit

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr. urged SSS and GSIS members to unite and file a class suit against deposed President Estrada and his cronies.

"They have no choice but to air to the court their grievance against Estrada and his associates who used up and lost in the stock market their billions of pesos in pension funds," Lozada said in a press statement.

Estrada posted bail on Monday after the Sandiganbayan issued arrest warrants against him on charges of graft and perjury.

Government prosecutors are investigating separate allegations by the SSS and GSIS managers during his term that Estrada earned P189 million in kickbacks after he compelled them to use the pension funds to buy shares of Belle Corp., the developer of Tagaytay Highlands.

Belmonte noted that when he was the GSIS president the pension fund for government employees invested only in "blue chips" and treasury bonds.

At her weekly press conference, Ms Macapagal said the increased contribution would be imposed on a gradual basis. She gave no figures or timetable for the plan.

The President said the government was coming up with measures to ensure that the SSS could meet the needs of its members.

"They (SSS officials) will manage the funds in such a way that the gradual increase in contributions will be accompanied by increase in benefits," the President said.

Nañagas told Cabinet members that the pension fund would only engage in blue chip investments to cut loses and improve earnings.

### Elect SSS and GSIS heads

In Davao City, senatorial candidate Solita "Winnie" Monsod said the huge losses incurred by the SSS and GSIS should prompt the government to amend the law granting the President powers to appoint the heads of both agencies.

Monsod proposed that the board of directors of the SSS and GSIS be elected separately by all of the members of the two agencies.

The members of the respective boards would in turn elect from among themselves the heads of the two organizations.

"That (GSIS and SSS anomalies) should tell us very, very clearly that from now on the GSIS and SSS must be put in the hands of professional managers and the members of the GSIS and SSS must have a hand in electing the members of the board. Why should it be a presidential appointee?" Monsod said.

"They should not be under the President. What does the President know about running a pension or retirement plan?" she asked.

Monsod noted that the late dictator President Ferdinand Marcos also cashed in on the GSIS and left it in bad shape when he was ousted from power.

The SSS, however, kept its money intact because the administrator at that time had "successfully protected" the agency.

"With the Erap administration both agencies were used," Monsod said.

Reelectionist Sen. Sergio Osmeña III of the administration's People Power Coalition assailed Ms Macapagal over her appointment of Winston Garcia as president of the GSIS.

Osmeña said Garcia, a lawyer and former Cebu provincial board member, had no experience in investments, management and banking.

Osmeña accused Ms Macapagal of violating the 1997 GSIS Charter, which requires that the president and chief executive officer of the government insurance firm must have investment and management experience.

He warned that Garcia could mismanage the GSIS.

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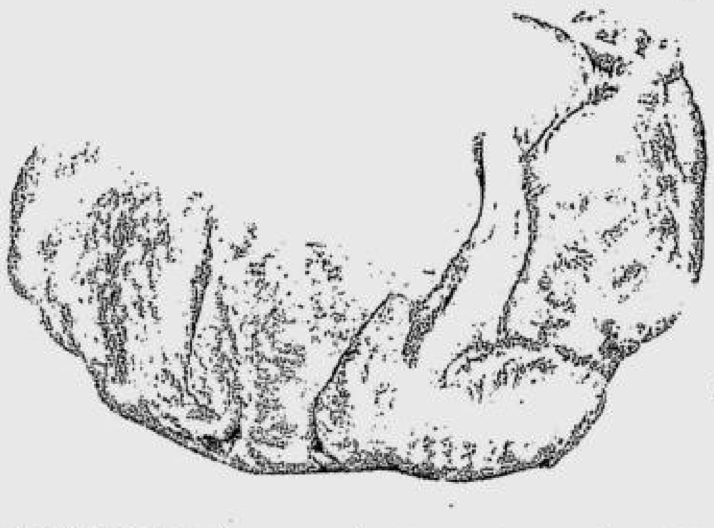

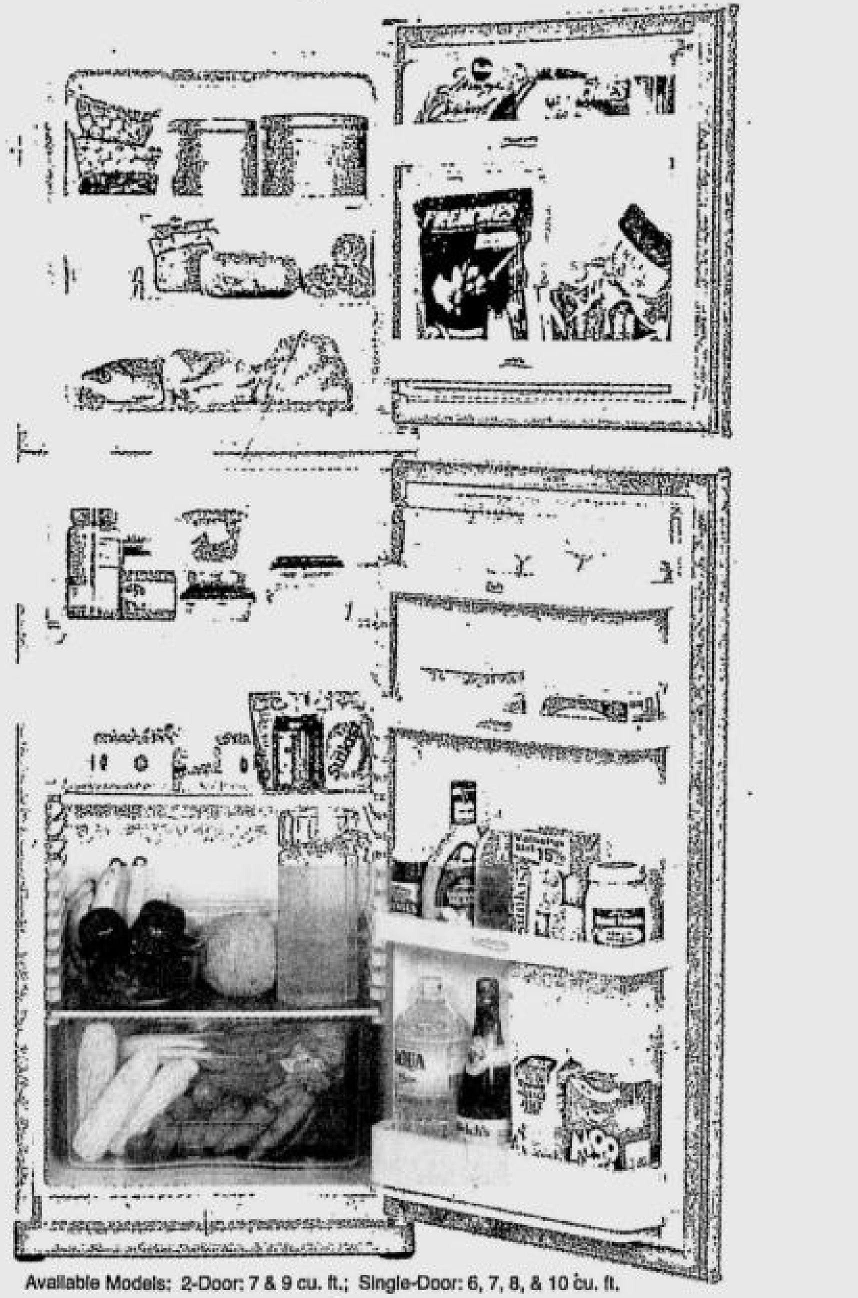

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## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Wednesday, April 18, 2001**
**Octave of Easter**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1st Reading:** | **Acts 3:1-10** |
| **Gospel:** | **Lk 24:13-35** |

Two disciples of Jesus were going to Emmaus, a village seven miles from Jerusalem, and they talked about what had happened. While they were talking and wondering, Jesus came up and walked with them, but their eyes were held and they did not recognize him.

He asked, "What is this you are talking about?" The two stood still, looking sad. Then one named Cleophas answered, "Why, it seems you are the only traveler in Jerusalem who doesn't know what has happened there these past few days." And he asked, "What is it?"

They replied, "It is about Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet, you know, mighty in word and deed before God and the people. But the chief priests and our rulers sentenced him to death. They handed him over to be crucified. We had hoped that he would redeem Israel.

It is now the third day since all this took place. It is true that some women of our group have disturbed us. When they went to the tomb at dawn, they did not find his body; they came to tell us that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that Jesus was alive. Some friends of our group went to the tomb and found everything just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

He said to them, "How dull you are, how slow of understanding! You fail to believe the message of the prophets. Is it not written that the Christ should suffer all this and then enter his glory?" Then starting with Moses and going through the prophets, he explained to them everything in the Scripture concerning himself.

As they drew near the village they were heading for, Jesus made as if to go farther. But they prevailed upon him, "Stay with us, for night comes quickly. The day is now almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When they were at table, he took the bread, said a blessing, broke it and gave each a piece.

Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; but he vanished out of their sight. And they said to each other, "Were not our hearts filled with ardent yearning when he was talking to us on the road and explaining the Scriptures?"

They immediately set out and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and their companions gathered together. They were greeted by these words: "Yes, it is true, the Lord is risen! He has appeared to Simon!" Then the two told what had happened on the road and how Jesus made himself known when he broke bread with them.

**Commentary:**

*Reading today's gospel, especially towards the end, we find a distinct Eucharistic tone. Jesus explains the events in the light of the sacred Scriptures. He refreshes the disciples' memory, rebukes their dullness, challenges their understanding, and enlivens their depressed heart. Patient and compassionate, he leads them to the acts of the Last Supper, when he told them that he would not eat it again until it would be fulfilled in God's reign. Finally they recognize the Risen Lord. Does the Eucharistic celebration enable us to hold together the seeming contradictions of life events and give them a meaning in the light of Scriptures and our Eucharistic communion?*

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## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

**CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery**—There is treachery when the offender commits any of the crimes against the person, employing means, methods, or forms in the execution thereof which tend directly and specially to insure its execution, without risk to himself arising from the defense which the offended party might make. The conditions which must concur before treachery can be appreciated are: (a) the employment of means of execution that gives the person attacked no opportunity to defend himself or to retaliate; (b) the said means of execution be deliberately and consciously adopted. The essence of treachery lies in the adoption of ways that minimize or neutralize any resistance which may be put up by the offended party. The killing of the sleeping victim herein was attended by treachery since he was in no position to flee or defend himself. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Quisumbing, People v. Cando, G.R. No. 128114, October 25, 2000]

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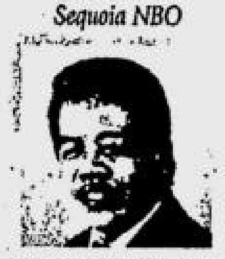
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# OPINION

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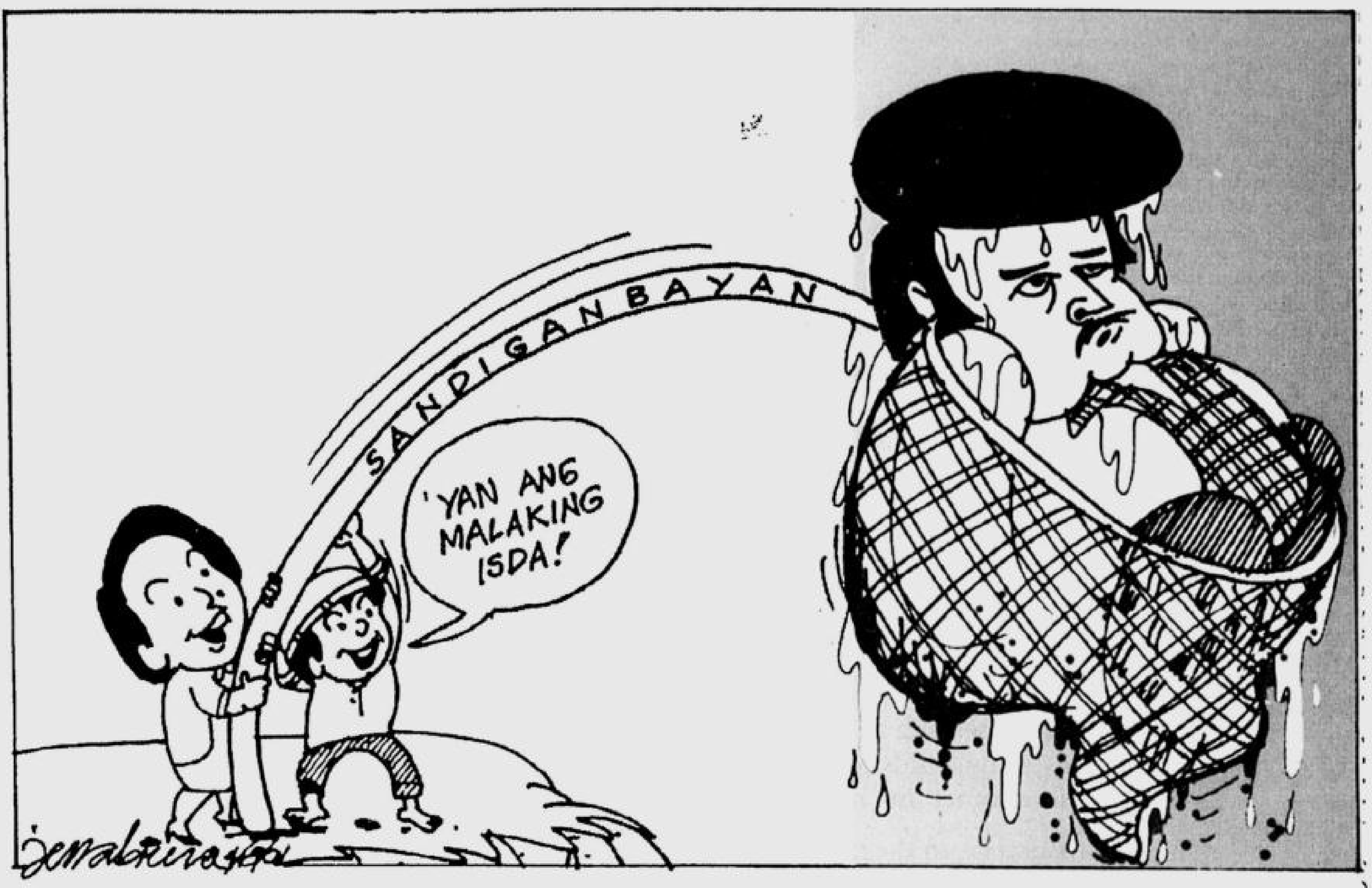

## What's the deal?

**EDITORIAL**

THE SOCIAL Security System lost about P8 billion from bad investments in the stock market during the Estrada administration, top SSS officials have said, confirming a report written by Pinoy Times publisher Vicente G. Tirol. In addition, its net income plummeted to just P3.9 billion in the year 2000, less than a third of the P13.4 billion that the SSS earned the year before. These losses from investments and the sharp reduction in income, coming on the heels of six increases in pension benefits over the last 10 years, are starting to put in peril the capability of the state-administered pension fund to continue providing retirement and other benefits to its 23 million members, including 700,000 retirees. Tirol quoted an unidentified source as saying the funds could run out as early as seven years from now, but Vitaliano Nañagas, the new SSS chair, said that would happen only if the SSS kept "the line of action" it adopted during the Estrada administration.

That "line of action," it is now clear, was primarily designed to line the pockets of then President Estrada. Carlos Arellano, the former SSS chair and childhood friend of the disgraced former chief executive, has testified that Estrada issued a "direct order" for the SSS to buy shares of stocks of Belle Corp., a company engaged in property development and gambling. The SSS reportedly paid P3.14 per share for 250 million shares, or a total of P784 million. Those shares were allegedly owned by Estrada, who got them when they were worth only P2 per share. How Estrada came by those shares has not yet been revealed, but from that transaction alone, he cleared P284 million in profits.

(At about the same time, Estrada also directed the Government Service Insurance System to buy P1.1 billion worth of Belle shares. For this and the SSS deal, Estrada demanded—and got—a P189.7-million commission, according to Belle Corp. vice president Willy Ocier.)

Estrada's raid on the finances of the SSS was of course only one of the reasons why it is headed for trouble financially. Nañagas said its huge losses stemmed from the weakness of the stock market as well as bad investments in corporations owned by the cronies of Estrada. Poor "judgment calls" were made during the previous administration, he said.

Nañagas is being too polite. The fact is that Arellano and other top SSS officials did not only bungle their jobs, they also took part in a criminal conspiracy to defraud millions of workers in the private sector and retirees of their money.

This crime is worse than stealing from the national treasury. When officials receive kickbacks from government projects or purchases, people are only deprived of essential services. But when retirement funds are dissipated though graft and corruption or even simple mismanagement, that is to shut off the lifeblood of one of society's most vulnerable sectors.

So what is all this talk about raising—even doubling—the contributions of members of the SSS to replenish its funds? SSS members already contribute as much as 8.5 percent of their monthly pay if their salaries are P14,000 or less. How much really can a breadwinner spare with this kind of income? And why should he be made to pay for the wrong decisions and outright thievery of top officials of the previous administration, including Estrada?

Before anyone even talks about increasing the burden of SSS members, the SSS and Macapagal administration officials should do whatever they can to recover the money that had been stolen and bring everyone responsible for the mess before the courts of justice. So, they have filed charges against Estrada, but what about Arellano and the other top SSS officials who approved the investments in high-risk and even speculative crony corporations? Sure Estrada ordered them to make some bad investments, but they were not little children who hardly knew what they were doing. They may be a little less guilty than Estrada, but they are guilty nonetheless. So why haven't we heard from the Department of Justice or the Office of the Ombudsman? Was Arellano promised immunity in exchange for his testimony against Estrada?

If he was, it doesn't look like a good deal at all. His crime looks almost as black as Estrada's, and the government has not even started looking yet into other deals he might have approved.

The same thing goes for Federico Pascual, the former president of the GSIS.

## Crisis with Beijing boosts George W. Bush's image

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

*Philippe Debeusscher*

WASHINGTON—With his deft handling of the tense 11-day standoff with China, US President George W. Bush has proved his mettle to the rest of the world, displaying his capability to be prudent and flexible in times of crisis.

Aside from some Republicans who chafed at the expressions of regret uttered by the United States in a move to garner the return of its 24 military personnel—who were held in Beijing since their spy plane collided with a Chinese jet April 1 over the South China Sea—much of the US political community tipped its hat to Bush for his patient, yet tenacious handling of the situation.

"I think the president got off to a very shaky start in the way he blew the North Korean thing. I think he didn't do well in the unilateral action with regard to the treaty. But on this he did do well, and the world saw this," said Democratic Sen. Joseph Biden, expressing a sentiment shared by many of his congressional colleagues.

Many analysts say Bush passed his first international relations test with flying colors.

Norm Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute called the resolution to the Sino-US row a "good moment" for Bush, saying it will enable him to craft an image "that will serve him well for at least a period of time in foreign policy."

"For every new president, there are a few early defining moments that set an image in place," Ornstein added, noting that former president Bill Clinton had had a tough time escaping the largely negative image he earned early in his presidency for his response to the crises in Somalia and Haiti.

> Much of the US political community tipped its hat to Bush for his patient, yet tenacious handling of the situation

Minxin Pei of the Carnegie Fund for International Peace said Bush has proven that he is "a serious guy."

"He has the ability to control his own people. His government speaks with one voice."

In contrast to Clinton, who would regularly appear on the front lines during a crisis, Bush handed over the keys to Secretary of State Colin Powell and the US diplomatic community for the day-to-day wrangling in the Sino-US row.

For the most part, Bush laid low, shifting his focus to domestic initiatives including the budget, education and his trademark tax cut plan.

Nonetheless, Bush was shown as being very much in control throughout the crisis.

According to a senior White House official, the president "said from the very beginning...that it's important that we try to avoid letting this escalate."

"On Wednesday, it was the president himself who said, 'Is there a way we can address both our concerns?' And that was the beginning of looking for some common ground," the official said.

"But he felt very strongly that we should not imply that our crew did anything wrong."

Still, the US president took his triumph rather quietly, retreating to the tranquility of his Crawford, Texas, ranch rather than share the spotlight with the downed EP-3 Aries spy plane's 24-member crew, who received a heroes' welcome Saturday upon returning to their home base on Washington State's Whidbey Island. *AFP*

## Left out

(*Conclusion*)

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

WHEN the National Democratic Front first faced the government in peace talks in 1986, two things had not yet happened.

First, the Berlin Wall had not yet fallen, and the vast country called the Soviet Union had not yet split up, though both were already being pummeled from all sides. The NDF then still enjoyed much stature and following, despite having boycotted the "snap elections" of February that year, which kept them out of power. That would change three years later.

Second, the "killing fields" had not yet happened.

That would happen two years later. The NPA had carried out purges before to rid its ranks of presumed spies, but never at a scale that merited the name the world gave the horrific slaughter the Khmer Rouge wreaked in Cambodia. It had conducted one in the late 1970s in Luzon several years after the capture of its top leaders, and another one in the mid-1980s in Mindanao, following the deaths of several of its key people there. But the one it mounted in 1988 in various parts of Southern Luzon was a qualitative leap not just in the number of deaths but in the barbarity of its methods, which included physical and mental torture.

Of course those "killing fields" were nowhere near the Cambodian version. I remember again asking Thelmo Cunanan, our ambassador to Cambodia some years ago, how many people died there, and he told me he never met one person there who did not have a relative that was a victim. Out of 18 million, six million were believed to have been killed by the Khmer Rouge, a mind-boggling third of the population. The 1988 NPA "killing fields" are known to have claimed the lives of only a hundred or more people.

But at the very least, more than a hundred is mind-boggling in itself, even in a country redolent of slaughter. It is certainly so from a movement that has always violently protested torture, disappearances and summary executions. More to the point, the NPA was not in power—unlike the Khmer Rouge—when it carried out the slaughter. Which raises chilling questions about what it might have done if it had overthrown government during its heyday.

In the end, not one of the victims of their "killing fields" was ever proven to be a spy or "deep penetration agent." Though they were mercilessly tortured on the argument, explicitly articulated, that Protocol 2 of the Geneva Convention which covers the treatment of prisoners, did not apply to spies. Many victims could only marvel before they died how well the NPA treated captured soldiers and how badly it treated its own. Most of them of course confessed to their "crimes," the way Nikolai Bukharin, a virtual son to Lenin, confessed to his while in the deepest recesses of dreaded Lubyanka Prison, to which Stalin had consigned him. None of them was true.

Doubtless, the Armed Forces of the Philippines had its own agenda when it resurrected the story last March 29, the anniversary of the founding of the New People's Army and the eve of the announcement of peace talks between the NDF and the government. But I do not know why it shouldn't surface at all, like the drowned from the bottom of the sea, and confront the guilty at a most inconvenient hour. When Gregoria de Jesus after all issued her warning that the truth has a way of coming out from the grave, she wasn't addressing the guardia civil, she was addressing the men of the Katipunan who had murdered her husband, Andres Bonifacio. Enough of forgetting. Enough of turning away. Enough of silences.

None of it this explained away by the argument that it was done by an ideologically deviant group, a group that has since been expelled by Utrecht. The ultimate responsibility for that wholesale murder falls on the NDF. All that the argument about ideological deviance and expulsion does is show precisely why something like this can happen, and has happened. Which is that the revolutionary movement has become pretty much a secular church, with its own set of infallible authorities ("scientific" is just another word for "divinely ordained"), unquestionable doctrines and a capacity to punish heretics by burning them at the stake. The burning at the stake is only slightly metaphorical.

I see Tony Zumel, Luis Jalandoni and Connie Ledesma and I see people who have given so much of themselves, who have endured pain and suffering and deprivation such as few of us have, or will do. I see them and I remember how many idealistic youth who could have become anything they wanted chose instead to serve the people by the most arduous of ways, which was to embrace the life of the hills. I see them and I remember the men and women who died in battle, or were tortured before they were "salvaged" or made to disappear forever while fighting Marcos and those who came after him.

But none of that will change the fact that they will have to confront the two things that need confronting today—the failed communist experiment all over the world and the revolutionary movement's own crimes against the people—above all, its own. Indeed, they owe it to those who chose to sacrifice their lives for their beliefs that they interrogate those beliefs with the same implacableness with which they did the victims of the "killing fields."

The NDF has always said that peace talks do not just involve the two parties at the opposite sides of the bargaining table, they involve the people who are the true subjects of those talks. Peace talks do not just entail giving each other a shopping list of demands, they involve giving the people an accounting of themselves. Well, the people include those who survived the "killing fields" and the kin of those who did not. At the very least, the NDF owes them a monumental apology. At the very most, it owes them the same indemnification the 2,000 or more victims of torture in Marcos' jails have been pressing the Marcos estate for, with their help and encouragement.

It is time the NDF discovered the spirit of openness and transparency and tolerance of dissent it has always demanded from the state, for which many true revolutionaries have died. Indeed for which many leftists who remain proud to serve the people but who will not remain to serve another religion continue to fight to this day. The NDF insists that activists and revolutionaries summon all their critical faculties to see what is wrong only about society and not about themselves, and it will not need peace talks to prescribe its dissolution. The NDF insists that activists and revolutionaries shout themselves hoarse only against the injustices of the state and not its own, and it will not need history to preside over its burial. The NDF does not change, and it can only be, as it has been for the last 10 years: Left out.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com*

# How to become a 'good' president

COMMENTARY

*Leandro V. Coronel*

WHILE the cathartic impact of the Easter rebirth is still in the air, it might be a good time to reflect on our national past and chart a new national path toward a new age of renewal. Having a self-proclaimed reformist government in place gives hope that such a new beginning is possible.

The cause, or more correctly, the curse, of our current and continuing problems has been a historical failure of leadership.

None of our past presidents stands out to prove wrong this theory of failed leadership. In fact, our recent presidents stand out for being, to be charitable, mediocre leaders. Joseph Estrada is the people's choice as the biggest dud in history. Fidel Ramos had a disciplined military approach to governance but, still, he was a so-so president. Corazon Aquino glued the nation together when it was in danger of splitting but she was clueless the rest of the way. And Ferdinand Marcos was, well, you supply your own adjective(s).

President Macapagal gives the impression she knows what she's doing. If she's serious about reforming society and setting the nation on a path to progress, she must draft a blueprint for rebuilding society. The nation is adrift and at risk of losing its way completely. However we may resent it because it was said by a foreigner, the writer James Fallows was right in calling us a "damaged society." We cause our problems by our own behavior.

Ms Macapagal must start with the basic needs of the people—food, housing, clean water and air, jobs or sources of livelihood. The people's health and nutrition needs must be secured, and the runaway growth of the population must be checked. People must be convinced that having fewer children is not only good for them but for the whole country.

Recent and current generations of leaders have done Filipino children injustice by not educating them well. Our teachers must be trained more rigorously to make them effective providers of quality instruction. Corruption in large Cabinet departments like education must be reduced, if not eradicated.

DECS is, after all, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, so it must teach us to be cultured. Cinema, television and radio should civilize, not idiotize, the citizenry. They should produce more than just cotton-candy entertainment, all fluff and not much else.

The Department of Finance and associated agencies, like the National Economic Development Authority, must prepare projects according to the priority needs of the economy, secure funding for them and get them quickly under way. Billions of pesos in funding from international sources remain unused because the government is unable to come up with its share of project financing.

Service agencies like the Land Transportation Office and the National Statistics Office must strive to be as customer-friendly as possible. The LTO must get rid of fixers who prey on hapless license applicants. The NSO must streamline its record-processing to make it easier for ordinary people to get service.

The police must seriously reform its ranks to weed out the criminals and non-performers. Having criminals in the police ranks makes people so paranoid as to want to own and carry guns, much to the grief of crusaders like Nandy Pacheco of the Ban-the-Gun Movement. It's an uphill fight to warn people of the deadly risk of guns in public when the same people cannot depend on the protection of the police.

Ms Macapagal enjoys the support of the private sector and she must exhort it to be even more efficient and to work hand-in-hand with, or even substitute in some areas for, the public sector in rebuilding the nation.

Leadership in the Philippines has failed not only in the highest echelons but at all levels. Most of our towns and barangays remain poor, many people live on the margins of society, incomes are low, decent jobs are scarce, many of the youth are out of school or into drugs, and are generally backwards. Leadership at the local level is often uninspired and visionless. While leaders at the top are supposed to provide national direction, provincial, municipal and barangay leaders must know how to make their communities more livable, wholesome and economically viable.

The President must ensure that citizens at all levels are given a say in deciding their fate. In recent years, civil society has been raising its voice as watchdog of the government. But it must go beyond protesting and bellyaching and get involved, along with grass root-level citizens, in the nitty-gritty of implementing projects that benefit the poor and powerless.

No stab at reform can succeed without taking a stab, however quixotic it may seem at first, at sweeping away graft and corruption. This is the thief that steals the nation's wealth at night and, alas in the Philippines, even in the daytime. Ms Macapagal should be willing to risk reelection even if it means alienating the corrupt and the corruptors.

One of the suggestions to lessen corruption is to pay government personnel—from senior officials down to clerks and policemen—reasonably high salaries, as they do in places like Singapore. My friend and former Washington colleague, Economics professor Rolly Dy, is convinced this will at least dampen public officials' urge or need to extort or accept bribes. The legendary journalist, Walter Lippmann, wrote: "Unless the reformer can invent something which substitutes attractive virtues for attractive vices, he will fail."

The President should require plans of action from all Cabinet officials and make such plans public in compliance with Ms Macapagal's own policy of transparency. These then would serve as measuring sticks of the President's performance when she stands for election in 2004.

Ms Macapagal wants to be remembered as a good president. She has a good chance of succeeding. But first she has to stop indulging in photo-ops and obviously contrived PR sorties and get down to the business of serious governing.

*Leandro V. Coronel, a former spokesperson of the World Bank in Washington, D.C., now lives and writes here.*

# 'Don't Vote for Miriam Crusade'

AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

THEY are not, by any measure, Makati's "fat cows," but concerned women of Makati, led by Rosanna Tuason Fores, of impeachment trial fame, and her mother, Mercy Tuason, are spearheading what they call the "Don't Vote for Miriam Crusade."

At the Bulong-Pulungan media forum at the Philippine Plaza yesterday, the women were distributing t-shirts that bannered photos of Rosanna and her two "ousted" companions: Dante Jimenez and Bettina Aboitiz, along with their common tormentor, Ma(i)d Miriam herself. "Miriam's Erapsyon: Layas!" says the t-shirt in front. At the back, there is a more direct appeal. "Huwag Iboto si Miriam!" signed by the "impeachment trial victims." The back also displays a caricature of the three kicking out Miriam, who gets "zero votes."

Of course, Miriam has not endeared herself with her continuing tirades against everyone who had a hand in the ouster of the former president known as Erap. Unfortunately, as someone who observed a recent "Puwersa ng Masa" provincial rally told me, Miriam's incendiary tirades are being lapped up by the public. "They love it when a candidate is *'palaban,'* but then that may also be because the crowd is pro-Erap already."

Miriam's bold and perhaps even "seditious" declarations may be designed to titillate the pro-Erap forces. But will a direct campaign against her, such as that being launched by the "impeachment trial victims," truly take votes away from her? Or would it not backfire and create even more awareness of her candidacy?

* * *

**HER name, and that of former First Lady Loi Ejercito went unmentioned, but the specter of Miriam and the Doktora loomed over the proceedings of yesterday's Bulong Pulungan. Theme of the day was: "Is there a Women's Vote?" with guests PPC senatorial candidate Liwayway Vinzons Chato, Irene Santiago of WomenVote, Makati congressional candidate Melon Recto Silverio, Pasay congressional candidate Mina Gabor, Marietta Primicias Goco of the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP party list, and this columnist, speaking on behalf of Abanse! Pinay, the women's party-list group.**

**If the goal is to have more women elected to office, then would that mean asking voters to vote for all women candidates, regardless of their party or personal qualifications? "We should make clear that we are asking women to vote for *good* women candidates," Santiago declared. To this end, their group, she said, has decided to endorse three women senatorial candidates: Winnie Monsod and Chato of the PPC, and Santanina Rasul, who is running as an independent.**

**Chato spoke of women's ability to "clean up" not just a dirty home, but also a "dirty government office and political system." "If people, especially women, who have proven themselves to be competent and honest stay out of politics, then how can we ever expect our politics to change for the better?"**

**But first, the political system, especially political parties, must prove themselves more inclusive of women, especially in decision-making positions. Even Marietta Goco, an experienced Lakas-NUCD operative, couldn't help but recount how some members of the party "tried to bump me off the line-up." Which is why, when I was asked about women running for office in place of husbands who could no longer legally seek another term, I said that for as long as the party system remains dominated by men, women must take whatever route to political participation is open to them, including the dynastic route. And in many cases, the "replacements" often prove to be more competent, more hardworking and more honest than the men.**

* * *

SPEAKING of women in the limelight, two women friends recently found themselves bathed in the harsh light of negative rumors.

Shortly after going public with their objections to the appointment of PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza, victims' rights advocates Carina Agarao and Tessie Ang See found themselves embroiled in controversies.

Agarao was accused in a press conference of absconding with the funds of the Crusade Against Violence, by a group claiming to be disgruntled members of the CAV, where Agarao is president. The charges against Tessie were even more "sensational." She was accused of interceding in behalf of a suspected drug pusher who was also supposedly her boyfriend. A widow, Tessie was even teased by her daughter if she did not somehow feel flattered by the accusation.

What did the women do wrong to deserve such an underhanded smear campaign?

Agarao finds links to their opposition to Mendoza, who was appointed PNP head despite protestations that Mendoza has a "derogatory" record, with serious concerns raised about his links to kidnapping and robbery gangs.

* * *

**A FELLOW columnist has already detailed a meeting that the two women held with Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, in which it was made clear that Mendoza had the support of the powers-that-be in Malacañang, who were apparently willing to overlook his past indiscretions.**

**But what makes the unsavory campaign against Agarao and Ang See even more barf-inducing is that it has apparently been carried out with the active support and participation of other victims' rights advocates.**

**Agarao is still flabbergasted at how Justice Secretary Nani Perez was apparently duped into swearing into office the "new" set of officers of the CAV, led by Lauro Vizconde. "But how can this be when Vizconde and the other 'officers' had left CAV a long time ago and have long been identified with another group, the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption?" asks Agarao. After yet another press conference denouncing Agarao, the "bogus" CAV members were spotted by bona fide CAVers helping put up posters of the VACC, which is running under the party-list system.**

**Something smells rotten in the state of victims' rights advocacy in this country. Which is sad, given how the movement began with so much public goodwill and sympathy. Who would've thought, indeed, that groups that started out with such a "pure" and noble intent as securing justice for the families of victims of violence, would end up bludgeoning each other?**

# Monumento and Cebu's Heritage: apples and oranges

LOOKING BACK

*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

E-MAIL response to the columns on the Catalogo de Apellidos of 1849 made me lose track of Holy Week. Readers asked whether their surnames were on the list, or worse, inquired about the etymological or genealogical significance of their surnames. I referred serious inquiries to the genealogy research center of the Mormon church in White Plains. I have not visited the place but I am told it is efficient, friendly and well worth the visit. Some years ago the Mormons went around the Philippines to microfilm all available church and civil records regarding births, marriages and deaths. These are stored in White Plains, open to anyone wishing to trace their family tree. However, I wonder whether most will meet a dead end in 1849 when our ancestors chose or were given the Spanish surnames we now carry. I presume indigenous and Chinese surnames can be traced further back than 1849. By interviews alone I went down five generations in my father's family and archival research can go much earlier than I imagine.

Fr. V. Badillo of the Manila Observatory asked about Spanish religious names that are not found even in Spain like De los Reyes or De Jesus or De Dios. Father Badillo supplied me with information I had heard earlier from Anding Roces that unwanted offspring of Spanish settlers and Filipinas were given the surname De los Reyes (from the kings) if the father was a colonial bureaucrat or soldier in the service of the crown; De Dios or De Jesus if it was a friar's child. Roces adds that if your surname is San Jose your ancestor was probably an orphan from Hospicio de San Jose. I have found no historical documentation for these assertions but they definitely make a good story.

Spanish surnames are also fascinating if one takes the trouble of translating these and matching them with the bearer. Let's take movie screen names: Nida Blanca (white) was surely a deliberate choice, like Doro de los Ojos (eyes) the comedian with bulging, glaring eyes long before Teofisto Guingona used his pair at the impeachment trial. Then there is a paradox as in Bella Flores (beautiful flowers) who is the *contravida* we all love to hate. Bold star Piel Morena (dark skin) reminds me of the story which designer Pitoy Moreno will neither confirm nor deny. I was told that during his first Madrid fashion show, Moreno was met by laughter rather than applause as he walked down the catwalk after his name was announced. He did not realize till then that Pito or Pitoy is the vulgar Spanish term for penis. Thus when abroad he introduces himself as Jose Moreno (dark Jose) rather than the familiar Pitoy Moreno (dark penis). Open a Spanish-English dictionary at random and you will discover so much about other people's surnames, for example: Aventajado (outstanding, excellent); Avellana (hazelnut); Pelea (argument) and so on. There is a lot more in names than you can imagine.

* * *

Last week Eduardo Castrillo's letter to the editor defending his "Heritage of Cebu" made me reread the column (March 9, 2001) that offended him. As a late 20th century work by one of the country's prominent modern sculptors, I am disappointed that it displays an outdated historical viewpoint. While Castrillo is entitled to his own version of history—formed from years of consultation plus the imprimatur of the National Historical Institute—I felt he missed out on the opportunity to move the focus from Spanish Cebu to the wealth and diversity of Cebu's history currently being rewritten.

Castrillo dismissed my misguided comments as the result of one hurried visit to the Heritage Park. Perhaps another visit will make me see his "rhythmic composition in a sculptural tableau rendered in a poetic storyline." On separate visits to Cebu over the years I saw the park develop. I read the fawning magazine article on the project. I'd like to think I was prepared to see the finished product Castrillo had to point out all the historical details I missed, making me wonder if a historian who has read up on Cebu history can miss all those historical details, what more an ordinary person passing by? I would not demand historical accuracy from a work of art had it not been for Guillermo Tolentino's monument to Bonifacio in Caloocan which is timeless and says more to a viewer who has not read Teodoro Agoncillo's "Revolt of the Masses." Tolentino's clear grasp of history is all over the work, down to the dimensions of the pylons and steps that represent significant historical numbers. Again comparing the Monumento with the Heritage Park is like comparing apples with oranges.

One should not cry over spilt milk, it is too late for changes now. Four hundred years of Spanish colonialism explains why much of the Heritage Park is on Spanish Cebu. Maybe I was hoping that the modern sculptor would, as Agoncillo did in his textbook, dump 400 years of Spanish history in the Philippines in two chapters. It was controversial, it was revisionist history at the time, it was criticized, yet it opened our eyes to a new way of seeing the past and ourselves. In the spirit of Easter, I ask Castrillo's forgiveness for expecting too much of him.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph*

# We've crossed the line, there's no turning back

OUTLOOK

*Rigoberto Tiglao*

WE'RE referring to the Sandiganbayan's issuance of warrants of arrest against Joseph Estrada, very likely the country's first president to be convicted and jailed.

We'd bet that a decade from now, when—hopefully—the country has finally become a developed economy, we'd be looking back, and mark this period as the time when we Filipinos finally took the rule of law seriously, when we started to transcend politics and elite dominance to jail a corrupt president.

If Estrada is jailed, we'd bet corrupt bureaucrats, mayors and governors would be told: "*Kung presidente nga, nakukulong, ikaw pa!*"

It hasn't been exactly because we've suddenly been enlightened and have mustered political will. The events since October last year—which nearly brought the economy to collapse—and Estrada himself could prove to be blessings in disguise. We have been given quite a rare opportunity—one unlikely to present itself ever again—to create a precedent that no one is above the law.

If the impeachment trial and People Power II had not occurred, it would have nearly been impossible to pursue charges against a corrupt president. For starters, Gov. Chavit Singson's breakaway from his drinking buddy was a bolt out of the blue.

With an incumbent president who obviously could afford the most expensive lawyers, the impeachment trial forced Congress' prosecutors, helped by top-notch private lawyers—to unearth evidence and to rigorously present these to the Senate court. It was also the first time when civil society, aghast at the allegations against Estrada, flexed its muscles to provide crucial support for the prosecutors and for witnesses like Clarissa Ocampo and Perfecto Yasay.

Why Estrada, and not Marcos? One obvious reason: there wasn't a version of an impeachment trial against Marcos. Much of the evidence against Marcos had not even seen the light of day, and got lost in the confusion right after Edsa I and during now senatorial candidate Gringo Honasan's coup attempts.

And then, there's Edsa II. Without it, and with his lackeys who were the majority in the Senate, Estrada had three more years—enough time to buy, co-opt, or cow into fear not only the witnesses but even most probably some of the opposition's political leaders spearheading the move to oust him.

If he had three more years, he would have been able to expand his political base beyond his hometown San Juan, most probably to Mindanao. That could have made the succeeding administration, for political exigencies, hesitate in pursuing charges against him. The only "political base" Estrada could call on now is a pathetic group of rally-for-hire *lumpens* or fanatics.

The camaraderie and patriotism generated by Edsa II has also created a strong political force and constituency demanding that Estrada be brought to justice. If the Office of the Ombudsman hesitated to pursue charges against Estrada, this political force would have likely taken over the project of prosecuting the disgraced president. Now this civil society force would be the watchdog to make sure the Sandiganbayan does its job.

And finally there's Estrada himself. Whether it was stupidity or hubris, he was inept in concealing his corruption and covering his tracks. What politician or even plain crook would be as stupid as signing a fictitious name in front of a bank executive?

With the charges filed against Estrada and warrants of arrest issued, we've crossed the line. With all these factors helping us to prosecute and convict Estrada, there's no turning back.

* * *

We received several e-mails commenting on our column Wednesday on the need to debate with the Left. Many were from people who in their youth had joined the Communist Party. The letters had the same theme. There wasn't any bitterness in their joining the Left. On the contrary, a sense of pride that they had participated in the truly democratic, anti-dictatorship movement the Left led during the martial law period.

There was however a sense of sadness why the Communist Party doesn't seem to understand that Marxism has proven to be a flawed theory, and that the age of armed revolutions has passed, that the only violent uprisings occurring in the last three decades were either anti-imperialist ones (such as in Vietnam) or in countries such as those in Africa where the motivating force has been tribalism.

Two such e-mails we received:

"At this day and age the concept of armed struggle has gone passé.

"It is time for the so-called revolutionary nationalist/democratic forces to reconsider their stance on this issue. As a former mass organizer among the student sector, I romanticized the idea of the 'red soldier' serving the impoverished masses against the ruling elite.

"But the whole political/economic spectrum of the world has evolved into something different from the Marxist/Lenninist/Maoist perspective though a lot from the Left will contend that the local political/economic conditions persist which would require the surgical intervention of a violent overthrow.

"If ever there would be peace; the whole machinery of the NDF could be transformed into a viable alternative in the parliamentary arena in the style of the European democracies. The remnants of the NPA could be integrated into the AFP and could contribute greatly to a pro-people approach to soldiering.

"Philippine society has a long way to being transformed into an ideal one but the potential is great if we would stop wasting our resources and energy fighting each other in the battlefields of lost causes."

* * *

This one is from a cadre who saw first-hand the rise and fall of the NPA in Davao in the early 1980s:

"Our paths may have fleetingly crossed in the past and your column today sparked a little tingle in me and unleashed a cascade of myriad memories of the martial law era and the immediate post Edsa I years. Perhaps in others too.

Indeed, the Left was the progenitor of both a glorious and sometimes tragic past in this country that has yet to become a nation. A lot of us spent the best parts of our lives as 'leftists' and do not regret having done so. Some plod on—in their own inimitable, 'evolved' way. But perhaps the single greatest tragedy of Marxists is that they have subjected everything to Marxism except themselves, except Marxism itself."

* * *

We wish that some talk show could sponsor a debate, or even just a discussion, on the Left, between the Communist Party's representatives and the country's respected political analysts. That would be more useful to us as a nation than those unending discussions about "Live Show."

* * *

*Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net*

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# Protest over power fees could intensify

I AM writing in response to the article "Bacolod lights go off over oppressive electricity rates" last March 28, 2001.

The Power Purchase Adjustment (PPA) is an amount embedded in your electric bills. The PPA is not less than P2.19 per kWh or 60 percent of your basic electric rate.

This amount would translate to the payment of P200 per month for poorer households to P1,000 and above for the rich. And yet the PPA does not represent any cost related to the actual production or distribution of electricity.

The PPA is payment for overpriced contracts of the National Power Corp. and Manila Electric Co. to buy electricity from 47 independent power producers (IPP).

We in the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec party list), representing 5 million member-consumer households, condemn this shameless transfer of wealth from the poor electric consumers to the rich. If the Power Reform Bill does not address this concern, it will be no reform at all. And in the name of reform we will be made to accept illusory gains in exchange for real losses.

For what and for whom is the PPA? It is a charge to recover P480 billion worth of overpriced IPP contracts. This is unconscionable.

In the provinces, electric cooperatives are being used unwittingly as collectors of the PPA, since the cooperatives are bound to pass on the PPA to the consumers. This is imposed on the consumers against the will of the cooperatives.

So if the PPA has nothing to do with the cost of distribution, then why are the Apec's 5 million poor rural member-consumer households as well as those in urban areas being made to pay for it?

The Apec fully supports the call of the Negros Consumers Watch Council and the Central Negros Electric Cooperative to have voluntary shut-off of power in the household level to protest the PPA. The Napocor and Department of Energy should immediately renegotiate the overpriced IPP contracts. Failure to do so may result in longer protest shut-offs or even a nationwide consumer revolt.—**LUIS MANUEL C. CORRAL, secretary general, Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives, 71 Masikap Ext. corner Marunong Street, Diliman, Quezon City**

# He loves his celibacy

I VEHEMENTLY protest the manner the INQUIRER bannered the boxed news about a talk I gave which was published last March 27: "Optional sex for priests proposed" and again, on March 29, "Optional sex advocate faces Church sanction." If this is not journalistic irresponsibility, I don't know what is.

Reading the two reports, one gets the impression that I talked about this subject matter before the graduating classes of the Foundation University in Dumaguete City. Was it a witting or unwitting slant? You judge for yourselves.

The truth of the matter is, I was invited to give the baccalaureate talk on the seed dying and the prodigal son finding his way back home. I zeroed in on "transformation, *pagbabago* and change." Not sex or optional celibacy, mind you. But before lunch, there was a press conference and among the issues taken up was the raging issues on "Live Show" which is now dead in the water, the Church spearheading the moral crusade against pornography. And like a movie director, the correspondent inserted the issue about the Republica report from Rome confirmed by the Vatican about priests raping nuns and Church workers in 23 countries including the Philippines.

In the spirit of humility and contrition and transparency, I stated that we wished it had never happened but something must be done now. The Church must address the issue of celibacy. Aside from better screening and formation and life support for priests, could the Church reflect and see the possibility of granting optional celibacy? "This teaching does not apply to everyone, but only to those to whom God has given it...Let him who can accept this teaching do so." (Mt. 19:11) What can be more optional than this?

Christ, our role model, was celibate and we should live out that too. I freely embraced this vocation and I'm fulfilled as one, but I can also understand the agony of some who may be good priests but have not been blessed with the charism of celibacy. Of my class of 13 from the San Jose Seminary, three have already married.

There may be failings among some, but there are very many heroic men of God, "having hearts of gold for charity and hearts of stone for chastity."

It is interesting to note that although the celibacy rule has been upheld and helps us as a supreme value in the Catholic tradition, it was only in 306 in Spain at the Synod of Elvira when the first legislation on celibacy was issued for the local church. The Council of Nicea in 325 forbade marriage after the diaconate. And it was only at the First Lateran Council in 1123 that celibacy became mandatory on all Catholic priests. After 10 centuries!

May I make it clear, I love my celibacy, since it gives me freedom and availability to serve. And I'm spared a mother-in-law.—**MSGR. NICO BAUTISTA, 8436 Kalayaan Ave., Makati City**

# Mark Chua's murder

I AM writing about the ghastly murder of Mark Chua—the men who killed him and those who ordered it are genuinely evil. To order the killing would be bad enough, but the manner in which it was done revealed a wickedness and sadism that is beyond understanding. The perpetrators are clearly sub-human.

Chua's father is apparently on the warpath and I hope that he gets justice. But where are the authorities of the University of Santo Tomas in all this? Chua was one of their students and he revealed a kind of corruption that seems, unfortunately, to be too common on Philippine campuses. Does the university not care about the welfare of their students and about its own reputation?—**REV. JOSEPH P. FRARY, St. Andrew's Theological Seminary, 275 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City**

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# Compulsory accident insurance is passenger-friendly

THIS is with reference to the letter of Alfonso V. Marquez of the Coalition Against Insurance Monopoly assailing the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board for its "two group/consortia" insurance scheme for the efficient and irregularity-free implementation of its compulsory passenger accident insurance, last March 22, 2001.

To set the record straight and to inform the public about the reasons for the LTFRB's "two group/consortia" insurance scheme, allow me to state the following:

1. The compulsory passenger insurance scheme raising the coverage for passengers in public utility vehicles involved in accidents was the result of a series of meetings with officers and members of various transport groups and Insurance Commission officials.

2. Accreditation of the insurance firms participating in the pro-passenger scheme, (previously inadequately compensated when claiming against insurance firms for injuries or death of their kin) was to be obtained from the Insurance Commission, not from the LTFRB.

3. The present "two group/consortia" scheme, a proposal that came from the transport groups themselves, was a remedial response to the complaints of various transport groups against the proliferation of "fake" insurance policies, pricing by certain firms and LTFRB personnel allegedly inducing operators to secure their policies from favored insurance firms.

4. Before the scheme was implemented, the LTFRB conducted a series of meetings with the officers and members of legitimate transport groups, who all agreed to the "two group/consortia" scheme which was proposed in these series of meetings.

5. Also present in this series of meetings were representatives from the Insurance Commission and the various insurance companies.

6. After the scheme was implemented, the irregularities complained of by various transport groups appear to have been effectively addressed.

A perennial problem of regulatory agencies like the LTFRB is that their policy issuances and rules and regulations issued after consultancy with those under their regulatory supervision, are not always universally accepted as there will always be parties who think only of their individual or personal interests and assail the enunciated policies, rules and regulations.

However, in exercising their right to disagree and voice out their stand publicly, they should not play fast and loose with the reputation, honor and integrity of those with whom they disagree.

I have been with the LTFRB since its creation in 1987. I can say without fear of contradiction that I have never accepted anything material or valuable, even at Christmastime, nor have I accepted invitations for lunch or dinner outside the office, except for open and public industry meetings. This fact is known in the land transportation industry.—**DANTE M. LANTIN, chair, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, East Avenue, Quezon City**

# Why were the plunder cases consolidated?

THE APRIL 5, 2001 issue of the INQUIRER reported that the Ombudsman has consolidated the eight Estrada plunder cases into one in order to strengthen the plunder complaint. At first blush, the logic rings soundly, after all, there is strength in number.

Upon deeper analysis, one begins to realize that Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's consolidation agenda draws from an implicit assumption that each case is inherently weak. Naturally, there is no need to consolidate, if each case were strong. That certainly is not a good signal to send to the people and the trial lawyers.

Legally speaking, this consolidation automatically favors ousted President Joseph Estrada and shortchanges the people. It is easy to try a single case and dismiss it readily, than to try and dismiss eight separate and well-made plunder cases. Once Estrada is acquitted, you can't put the man back on the stand because that will be a ground for double jeopardy.

Now, as that realization begins to sink in of how easily Estrada could win under this scenario, it suddenly looms strongly that the people could once again be denied justice.

I believe that Estrada deserves a fair trial. Guilty or not, he merits the right to prove his innocence. In the same manner, I also believe that the people should witness a properly conducted hearing. They have earned it after sitting through the kangaroo court that was the impeachment proceedings, which ultimately led in a second bloodless revolution.

As we think more about it, we realize how this consolidation agenda already tips the scales grossly in favor of the defendant. Are we to sit through another precooked tribunal?

If there is to be parity in the playing field, those eight plunder cases must and should see the light of day.—**JOSEPH RIÑOZA PLAZO, 62 Katipunan Avenue Ext., Loyola Grand Villas, Quezon City**

# Loss of a friend

I WAS saddened and shocked when I learned that my friend and favorite religious columnist, Telly Albert Zulueta, died last March 30, 2001. A search in your newspaper gave no details about the cause of her sudden demise. Surely, she must be in limbo now, one degree lower than heaven, which Jesus Himself went through after His crucifixion.

Telly and I had one thing in common. We both are avid readers of the five-volume book titled: "The Poem of the Man-God" which chronicles the hidden lives of Jesus and His Mother Mary as dictated by Jesus Himself to Sta. Maria Valtorta of Spain. The language used in this book is so beautiful and picturesque. Telly has quoted from this book. I commiserate with you and your staff for the loss of Telly.—**COL. CHARLIE H. BELOSO (ret.), 1423, 2nd floor, A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila**

# Offensive to Muslim sensibilities

I WAS shocked and saddened to read such an anti-Muslim piece in the INQUIRER last Feb. 24, written by Ramon Tulfo ("Muslim applicants at DPWH"). The tone of Tulfo's piece was derogatory in the extreme, saying that Filipino Muslims spit everywhere because of religious reasons. Do Filipino Christians not also spit in public places? He also claims that Filipino Muslims are tribalistic, helping those of their own. Isn't the whole of the Philippines likewise tribalistic, helping those coming from the same hometown or province?

As a Muslim, I was personally offended by the nasty tone of Tulfo's piece. I am a supporter of freedom of expression, but when you allowed him to outrightly slur and slander an entire segment of Philippine society, then I think something is very wrong.

I think Tulfo should apologize in print, in his column, for hurting the sensibilities of all Muslims. And one more thing: Tulfo should get his Islamic facts right before jumping to sloppy and idiotic conclusions. It is not true that Muslims are not allowed to swallow their saliva during the fasting of Ramadan.

In this day and age where most discrimination based on sex, national origin, race or sexual orientation is considered taboo and wrong, why is it that Muslims are still considered appropriate targets for such in the Philippines?—**RASHEED ABOU-ALSAMH, Unit 308 Cityland Pasong Tamo Condominium, 6264 Calle Estacion, Pio del Pilar, Makati City**

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# *The* WORLD

## *UK Catholics move to weed out pedophile priests*

LONDON—A review body set up by the Roman Catholic leaders in England and Wales was expected Tuesday to draw up stringent new guidelines in a bid to protect children from pedophile priests.

England's highest-ranking Catholic bishop, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, launched the review in September after admitting that "inadequate procedures" had led to errors in the past.

Between 1995 and 1999, 21 of the 5,600 Catholic priests working in England and Wales were convicted of offences against children.

The nine-member review body was reporting its initial findings on how to tackle the problem after examining current legislation, including human rights laws and church practices.

Catholic bishops in England and Wales meet later this month to consider the findings, and the full report is expected in summer.

"We have to start right at the beginning and be very careful as to how well we take a very close, and increasingly professional look, at all those who apply to be priests in the Catholic Church," the archbishop of Birmingham, the Most Reverend Vincent Nichols, told BBC television.

He said a "great deal" had been learned in the last 15 to 20 years.

"I think 20 years ago it (abuse of children) was just a puzzle, it was such a shock and such a surprise. It was very much a hidden phenomenon and a hidden crime."

"But I think nowadays these things are much more understood. We obviously have been on a steep learning curve along with the rest of society."

"What we are trying to do in this report is to make sure we really do learn the lessons and put them into practice," he said.

Murphy-O'Conner, the archbishop of Westminster, came under fire himself in July, four months after his installation, for his own handling of a scandal involving a pedophile priest.

He faced calls to resign when it emerged that he was responsible for failing to take action against Michael Hill, a priest in his own diocese, who in 1997 was jailed for nine sex attacks. *AFP*

# Mideast tensions heighten as Israel unleashes might

**AN ARMED** activist of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement points his gun during a march in Gaza April 16. Fatah is leading the Palestinian seven-month old uprising against Israeli occupation in Gaza and the West Bank. REUTERS

**JERUSALEM—An Israeli strike on Syrian targets in Lebanon as well as helicopters raids and an armored incursion in autonomous Palestinian territory in the Gaza Strip further heightened tensions in the Middle East, casting a pall on hopes for a resumption of negotiations.**

Israeli warplanes pounded Lebanon early Monday, killing at least one Syrian soldier, and Israeli pounded the Gaza Strip with tank fire, air strikes and the second storming of an area under full Palestinian security control since the start of the Palestinian uprising or intifada in late September.

The strike east of Beirut—Israel's first direct targeting of the Syrian Army since its 1982 invasion of Lebanon—came just hours before a rare visit to Israel by Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdel Ilah al-Khatib, who condemned the raid at a meeting with his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres.

Khatib, the first ranking Arab official in Israel since Sharon took office March 7, denounced the strike as "an unjustified escalation that may affect the overall stability and security in the region."

Israel's evening pounding of the Gaza Strip followed the mortar shelling of the southern Israeli town of Sderot, which had sparked a harsh warning from Sharon's spokesperson Rannan Gissin.

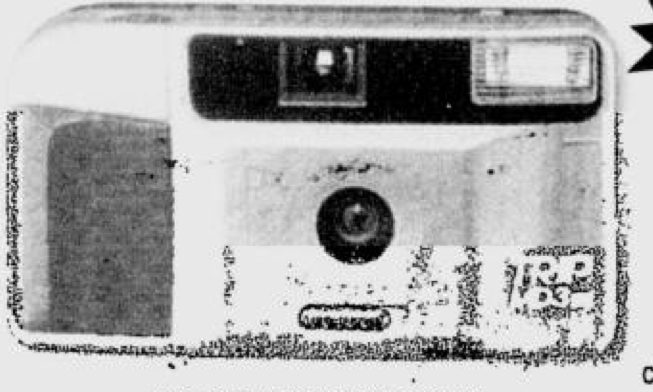
Gissin said the government would not tolerate the mortar attack, describing it as a "grave escalation" for which the Palestinian Authority was responsible.

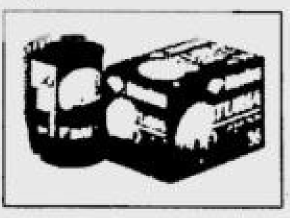
In the evening, Israel hit back at the Palestinians. Helicopter gunships proceeded to raze a training center for Force 17, the personal security force of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, in the central Gaza Strip town of Dir al-Balah while warships fired from the sea.

In violation of the peace agreements signed with the Palestinians since 1994, Israel overran Palestinian border police positions in Beit Hanun, an area under complete Palestinian control, with eight jeeps, three bulldozers and around 100 soldiers; and Israeli tanks fired upon Palestinians in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Plans for a round of top-level Israeli-Palestinian security talks—aimed at ending the six-and-a-half-months of deadly violence—crumbled earlier amid the day's tension.

"The meeting will not take place because the conditions are not ripe," said a Palestinian source on condition of anonymity. *AFP*





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# PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

## 27th Midyear Convention

Xavier Sports & Country Club, Cagayan de Oro City
April 20-21, 2001

### Messages

It is indeed my honor and pleasure to greet all the Officers and Members of the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) on their 27th Midyear Convention.

For years the PCS, a specialty division of the Philippine Medical Association, has been very much involved in the promotion of health care among Filipinos. Your organization shows that it recognizes the important role it plays in uplifting the lives of our people by continuing its informational campaigns and aggressive health awareness programs. I hope this Convention will inspire all of you to continue your selfless dedication in helping Filipinos achieve their full potential as individuals.

The fulfillment of total health care among our people enables them to reach their fullest potential as individuals and as members of our society. More importantly, a healthy individual spawns a healthy family and a healthy community. I am with you in your commitment to achieve quality health care.

May you, therefore, continue to take care of the health and welfare of every Filipino family with dedication, efficiency and commitment. I urge your organization to continue your partnership with our government in endeavors that will bring our country to greater heights of achievements.

Congratulations and MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Warm greetings to the Officers and Members of the Philippine College of Surgeons on the holding of its 27th Midyear Convention.

The Health Sector Reform Agenda offers a vision of improved health for all Filipinos. The success of this endeavor lies in the partnership of all stakeholders in the delivery of health care services and programs at all levels. We must cooperate collectively and share the responsibilities in attaining this worthy cause.

Medical associations such as the PCS play a vital role in the upgrading of our health care delivery system. Let us all join hands and work toward our common goal of "health for all Filipinos".

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health

In the diversified fields of specialization within the medical profession, surgery is the most demanding in terms of mental acuity, physical stability and moral discipline and integrity. This is so because surgeons are more often than not the last resort in saving the life of a patient. Invariably, this calls for constant honing of surgical skills and pathological expertise through studies and mutual professional consultations in conferences and/or conventions.

It is in conscientious commitment to enhance the professional skills and decorum of its members that the Philippine College of Surgeons is holding its national mid-year convention this April 20-21, 2001 in Cagayan de Oro City. With the theme "MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS IN SURGERY", there is no doubt that much of this 2 day convention will focus its discussions on ways and means of attaining its objectives. With everyone working in earnest concert, I am certain that each delegate will be richer and more confident in their exciting profession.

Meanwhile, I am privileged to extend our sincerest welcome to all delegates with an open invitation to everyone to enjoy the scenic tranquility and beauty of our city and to savor the open friendship and hospitality of our people. May I also urge every enterprising surgeon to be partners in accelerating the growth and development of our city as the future economic center in Mindanao.

Hon. VICENTE Y. EMANO
City Mayor, Cagayan de Oro City

Greetings!

A warm welcome goes to all the Fellows, Residents, Guests and their Families on the occasion of the 27th Midyear Convention of the Philippine College of Surgeons in progressive and beautiful City of Cagayan de Oro!

This year's Conventions Committee with the Host Chapter has prepared exciting and varied activities that will satisfy our utmost expectations in a PCS Midyear Convention. First, we will have varied sports activities the day before the Convention. Second, we will continue to have multi-specialty simultaneous sessions while family members may take advantage of the many recreational facilities of our venue. Third, we will plan the Midyear Conventions for the next 3 years and discuss the PCS Plans 2001 during the business meeting. Please see what we, as individual Fellow or as a Chapter or affiliate specialty society, may do or perform in the realization of these plans. There are so many small things or tasks that each and every one of us can do to make these plans our accomplishments for the year. Fourth, we can look forward to renew acquaintances or meet new friends during the Fellowship Night and lastly, we can truly make this Midyear Convention a Smoke-free convention. No one else can!

I thank the Conventions Committee, the PCS Northern Mindanao Chapter, the PCS Secretariat, our Friends in the pharmaceutical industry and all those who came to make this meeting such a success.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

ALBERTO B. ROXAS, M.D.
President, Philippine College of Surgeons

We gladly welcome all you delegates to the 27th Midyear Convention of the Philippine College of Surgeons. It is the time of the year when we meet together along with our families to engage not only in scientific but also social activities to promote camaraderie and academic pursuits.

At the beginning of the millennium, we are cordially and warmly welcomed by our co-Fellows in this fine city of Cagayan de Oro for this convention where surgical specialties are represented in the formulation of the scientific and social programs that will surely bring satisfaction to all. We in the College aim to pursue the goal of making the PCS as the mother organization of these specialties.

May this meeting be fruitful and memorable to all.

ERNESTO C. TAN, M.D., FPCS
Vice President & Over-all Chairman
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From the City of Golden Friendship...
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- unwinding stretch of sports activities
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MABUHAY PO TAYONG LAHAT!!!

MAXIMO H. SIMBULAN, JR., M.D., FPCS
President, PCS Northern Mindanao Chapter

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Opening of the Convention

ALBERTO B. ROXAS, M.D., FPCS
President
Philippine College of Surgeons

Welcome Remarks
MAXIMO H. SIMBULAN, JR., M.D., FPCS
President
PCS Northern Mindanao Chapter

Presentation of Convention Delegates
ERNESTO C. TAN, M.D., FPCS
Vice President & Overall Chairman
Committee on Conventions

Introduction of Guest Speaker
HERNANDO R. EMANO, M.D., FPCS

Address
The Honorable VICENTE Y. EMANO
Mayor, Cagayan de Oro City

ARTURO S. DE LA PEÑA, M.D., FPCS
Secretary, Philippine College of Surgeons
Master of Ceremonies

OPENING OF EXHIBITS
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# Koizumi leading in race to replace Mori as premier

TOKYO—Former Health Minister Junichiro Koizumi is the top choice among members of regional chapters of Japan's ruling party to replace the unpopular prime minister, according to a newspaper poll published yesterday.

The Yomiuri newspaper polled 1,116 local members of the Liberal Democratic Party and said the highest number supported Koizumi in the April 24 election for party president. The paper, however, did not provide a breakdown of support among the four candidates.

Koizumi is running against former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and two other candidates to replace Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori. The winner of the vote for party president will become prime minister because of the party's strength in Parliament.

While the support of regional LDP chapters is important, the party presidential election is arranged to give decisive power to the LDP's 346 lawmakers in Parliament.

Each lawmaker has one vote in the contest, while the party's 2.4 million other members' ballots are boiled down to 141 votes—three for each of Japan's 47 prefectures (states). Prefectural chapters are now holding elections to determine how to distribute their three votes.

The Yomiuri poll said Koizumi, 59, was by far the most favored even among regional members who focus on the economy, which Koizumi is not stressing as much as his contenders in the campaign.

Of about 560 party members who said economic measures are the key issue in choosing their new president, 42 percent supported Koizumi, a reform advocate. Hashimoto got 27 percent.

LDP policy chief Shizuka Kamei got 7 percent, and economic minister Taro Aso won 5 percent, the newspaper said.

Kamei visited yesterday the controversial Tokyo shrine where Japan's war-dead, including war criminals, are entombed. Kamei annually visits Yasukuni Shrine during its mid-April memorial event.

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# US to press China to return spy plane

WASHINGTON—A US delegation headed for Beijing Monday to press for the return of a US reconnaissance plane seized following an April 1 collision with a Chinese fighter jet and to ask "tough questions" about Chinese interceptions of US aircraft, US officials said.

The talks, set to begin today, are part of an effort to ease US-Chinese tensions in the wake of the collision and to explore ways to avert similar incidents in the future.

But neither side showed any sign of backing away from their insistence that the other was to blame for the mishap, which killed a Chinese pilot and forced the US Navy EP-3 Orion to make an emergency landing on the Chinese island of Hainan.

The US side will "ask tough questions about the manner in which the Chinese have been intercepting our aircraft in the area and also to state our position about the EP-3 plane that needs to be returned," said White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer.

"Twenty-four American lives were put at risk as a result of the manner in which this accident took place and it is a cause of concern."

Beijing has made clear it will ask for an end to the surveillance flights, which it considers an infringement of its sovereignty.

The United States, which last week said it was sorry for the death of the Chinese pilot and the US plane's unauthorized landing in China, is sending a relatively low-level delegation to the talks.

US Ambassador Joseph Prueher will not take part in the talks, said State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher.

Instead the eight-member US delegation is being led by Pete Verga, deputy under secretary of defense for policy support. It includes two State Department officials and five US military officers, officials said.

*AFP*

# Docked 'slave ship' shows no sign of kids

COTONOU, Benin—After days of searching, officials boarded a ship suspected of transporting scores of child slaves from this West African country early yesterday but found no clear sign of unaccompanied children.

A government minister said there has been a mix-up, and another unidentified vessel is the slave ship. But UN officials called for caution, saying a government investigation was necessary to discover the truth.

Social Protection Minister Ramatou Baba Moussa said the Nigerian-registered, MV Etireno, which UN and local officials originally thought left Benin with the children, may have been confused with a second ship, whose name and current location remain a mystery. She said it was not known whether any unaccompanied children were on board the Etireno, although two minibus loads of children were taken from the ship to a local shelter.

UN officials in Cotonou earlier speculated whether the Etireno's captain, a Nigerian with a criminal past, could have thrown his human cargo overboard. After the ship's arrival, the same officials said the truth would probably not be known until the government finished an investigation, including interviews with the passengers on board.

"I don't know what to think," said Nicolas Pron, a senior official with the UN children's fund in Benin. "My main concern is that the kids are here and safe, and we will hear if that is the case."

*AP*

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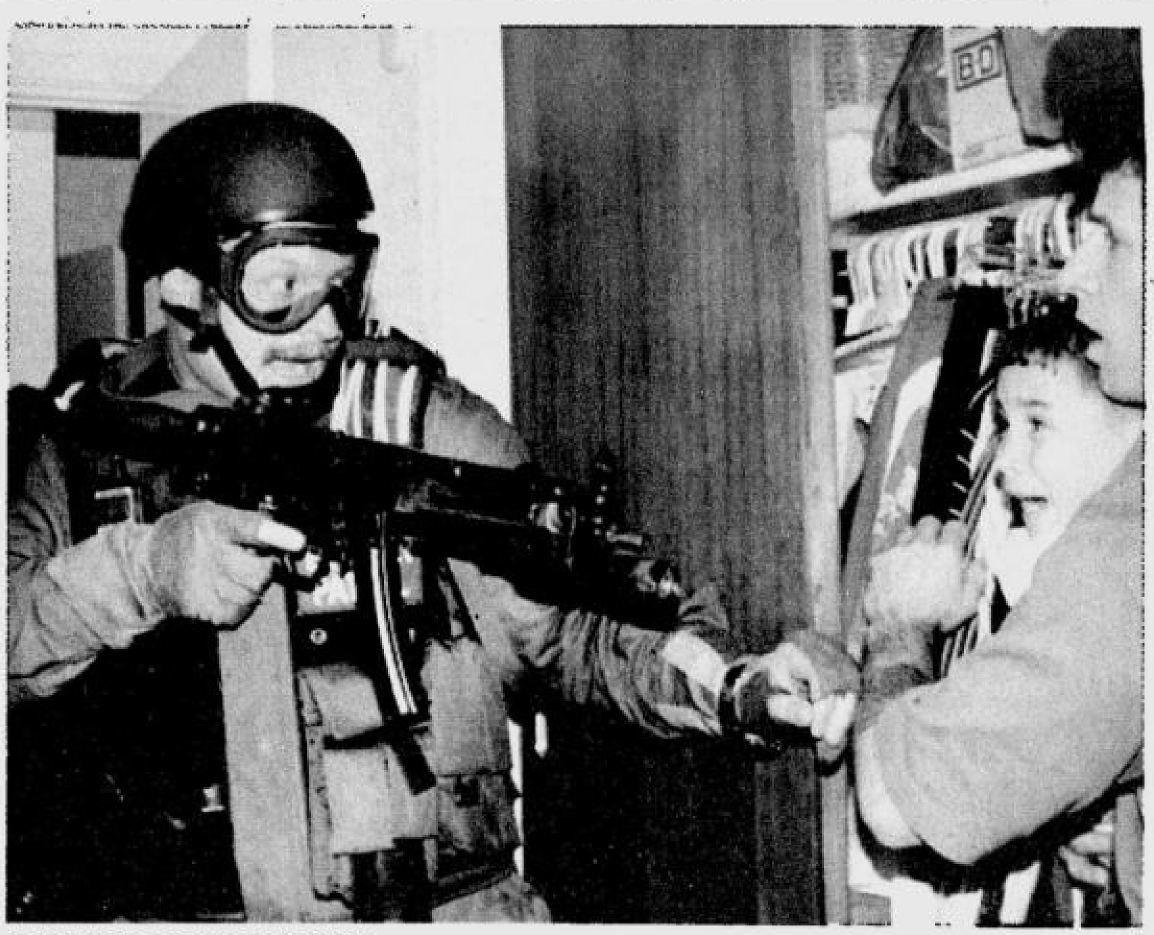


**PULITZER PRIZE WINNER** REUTERS

The Pulitzer Prize for breaking news photography was awarded April 16 to Alan Diaz of the Associated Press for his photograph of armed US federal agents seizing Cuban boy Elian Gonzalez from the home of his Miami relatives. Gonzalez, held in the picture by Donato Dalrymple, was taken from the home April 22, 2000.

# Pro-Wahid suicide squad defies police order to call off war training

JAKARTA—A leader of a suicide squad formed to help fend off attempts to oust Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid yesterday refused to call off the group's war training despite a police order.

Wiro Sugiman, coordinator of the Front for the Defenders of Truth, said his group would travel to Jakarta in the last week of April to occupy parliament where MPs are due to convene to consider issuing another censure of Wahid.

"The training will go ahead. It's for self-defense," said Sugiman from Surabaya, the capital of East Java province.

"Noone can stop us, not even Gus Dur (Wahid's nickname) nor the police. We'll stop our activities only when those in parliament stop trying to oust the president," he added.

National police chief Suroyo Bimantoro was quoted by newspapers yesterday as ordering his men in East Java to disband the war training by thousands of Wahid's supporters, which has been ongoing in recent days.

"Under Indonesian law, military training by civilians is illegal," Bimantoro was quoted as saying by the Media Indonesia daily.

"If they don't heed our reminder, just disband them," he added.

Sugiman said he expected 70,000 members of the front to flood Jakarta starting April 25 to join a mass rally by the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), the country's largest Islamic group led by Wahid for 15 years before he became president.

"They will come at their own cost. Some volunteers have even sold their video compact dics players and their livestock for the purpose," he said.

"They're not stupid. They're nobody's fools."

He said the parliament will be filled with "a sea of people" until MPs quit their attempts to impeach Wahid.

Parliament, which first censured Wahid in February, is scheduled to reconvene in Jakarta on April 30 to debate issuing a second censure, and the NU mass rally has been scheduled for April 29.

If Wahid's response to a second censure fails to appease the legislators, a special impeachment session of the national assembly could be convened by August.

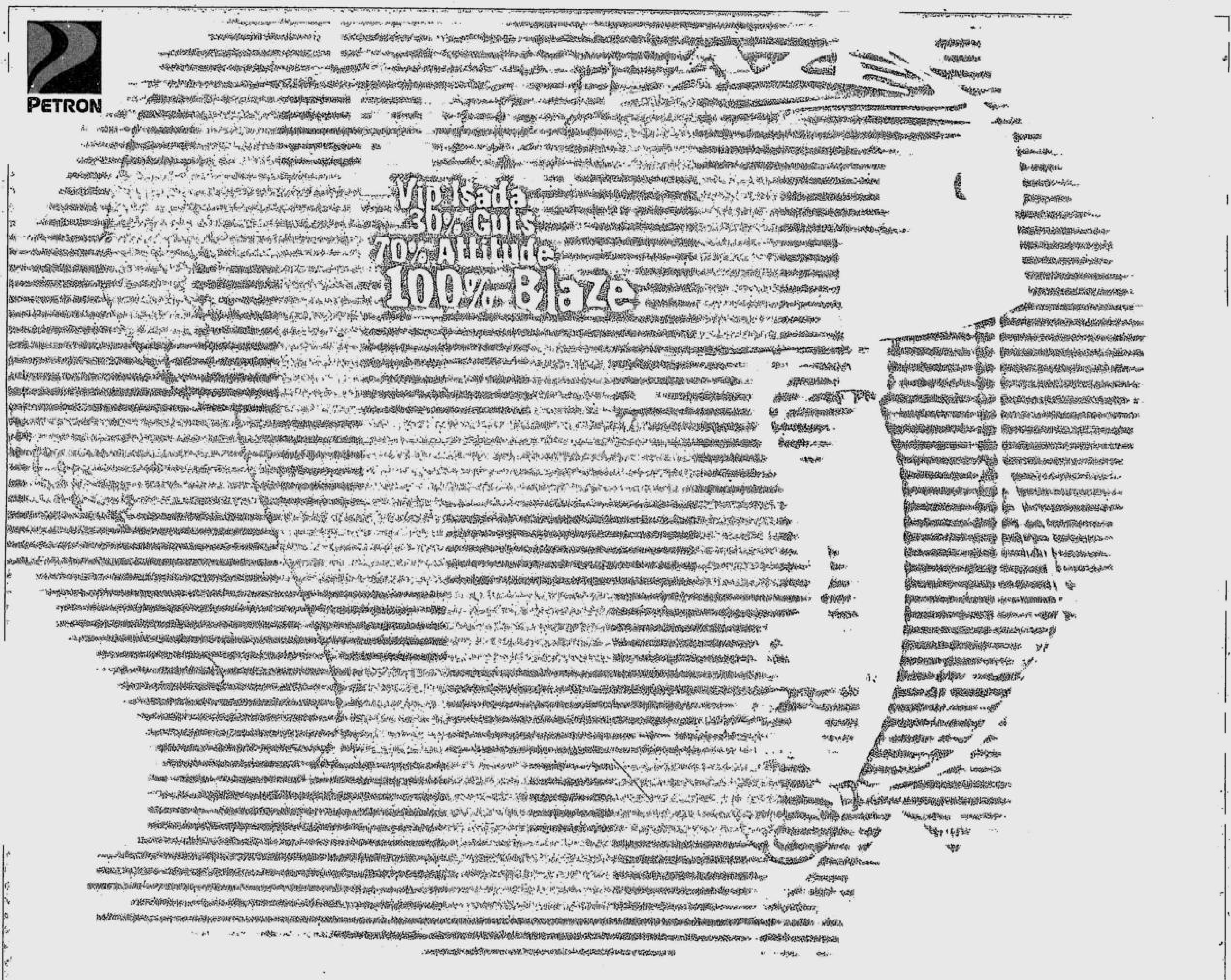
Legislators have said another censure is inevitable given Wahid's poor performance.

The Jakarta police on Monday launched an operation to check people arriving at the capital and confiscate any weapons.

Those entering the city at bus terminals, train stations, ports and main roads would all be checked, the police said.

Jakarta Governor Sutiyoso has said at least 7,400 police would be deployed.

A rival Islamic group, the Muslim Brotherhood, led by cleric Hussein Al Habsyi, has threatened to confront Wahid's supporters if the police and military fail to prevent them from running riot. *AFP*



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# Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

## ROUNDUP

### 3 killed in gun attack

MALOLOS, Bulacan—A tricycle driver and his two passengers were shot and killed for unknown reasons by unidentified men in Barangay Lugam here last week. Killed were Boy Cortez, the tricycle driver; Manolito Mella, 27; and his brother Gary, 33, both of Barangay Look 1st here. Police said the Mellas hired Cortez to take them to a niece's house to attend a graduation party. A third passenger, Reynaldo Mella, was reported missing and believed abducted by the gunmen, police said.

*Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

### Baguio burglary

BAGUIO CITY—The campaign headquarters of Vice Mayor Daniel Fariñas was ransacked by burglars on April 7, police said. Fariñas, who is running for mayor here, said he lost a computer. He said the break-in occurred at 4 a.m. at his law office, which he converted into his campaign headquarters. "My files were in disarray, obviously someone was searching for something. Only the computer was taken. I had nothing important in that computer because all my files are at City Hall, including documents that address controversial city issues," he said in Filipino.

*Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### 2 militiamen slain

COTABATO CITY—An unidentified gunman shot dead two militiamen at a refreshment parlor in Kabacan, North Cotabato, on April 4. Police said the victims, Rafael Biagao and Muslimin Pagayao, both assigned in Barangay Tunggol, Pagagawan, Maguindanao, suffered multiple bullet wounds. Wounded by stray bullets was Arbaya Mohammad, of Barangay Bulit, Kabacan. The victims were engaged in a drinking spree when a man with an M-16 rifle suddenly opened fire.

*Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### DSWD assistance

LEGAZPI CITY--The Department of Social Welfare and Development in Bicol assisted 1,028 persons, mostly children, last year. DSWD regional director Consolacion Arafiles said the Haven-Bicol, a substitute home for women in especially difficult circumstances, served 31 persons; the Lingap Center for Children, 49 children; the Crisis Intervention Unit, 817 persons; and the Harong Para Sa Mga Aking Babae, 130 children.

*Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Aid for farmers

LEGAZPI CITY--Some 75 farmers working on 184 hectares of coconut land received a total of P1.4 million from several agencies for livelihood projects under the Maunlad na Niyugan Tugon sa Kahirapan program of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA). Pedro Endaya, PCA regional manager, said three project sites with a total land area of 69 hectares received P284,616 for intercropping, cattle and livestock-based projects.

*Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Anti-crime watchdog

LEGAZPI CITY--The Department of Interior and Local Government has organized the Bicol Regional Multi-Sectoral Monitoring Team (BRMMT) to monitor illegal gambling and drug trafficking. DILG Secretary Jose Lina earlier ordered the team's creation in an order issued on Feb. 26. DILG regional director Josefina Castilla-Go heads the team.

*Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Teachers air fears

MARAWI CITY—A number of public school teachers in Lanao del Sur may not serve as canvassers or election inspectors on May 14, fearing violence in their voting precincts. "We are not secured," Raisa Guro, a teacher from the city's West District, said. Provincial election supervisor Datusalangit Macalaba said the teachers were afraid that supporters of candidates would sow terror. Col. Santiago Prejido, chief of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade, said seven battalions of soldiers have been deployed to the two Lanao provinces to ensure peaceful and orderly elections.

*Violeta Gloria, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## WEATHER FORECAST

**FORECAST:** Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Eastern section. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila<br>Hi 35° Lo 24° | Baguio<br>Hi 26° Lo 17° | Tuguegarao<br>Hi 34° Lo 22° | Laoag<br>Hi 34° Lo 24° |
| Clark Zone<br>Hi 34° Lo 24° | Tagaytay<br>Hi 30° Lo 22° | Legazpi<br>Hi 32° Lo 27° | Calapan<br>Hi 34° Lo 25° |
| Bacolod<br>Hi 34° Lo 26° | Roxas<br>Hi 33° Lo 28° | Cebu<br>Hi 32° Lo 26° | Tacloban<br>Hi 34° Lo 26° |
| Gen. Santos<br>Hi 33° Lo 24° | Zamboanga<br>Hi 32° Lo 25° | Cagayan de Oro<br>Hi 34° Lo 24° | Davao<br>Hi 32° Lo 26° |

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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# Sulu town policeman cited for Schilling rescue

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Senatorial candidate Santanina Rasul has expressed disgust over military officials who claimed to have rescued American hostage Jeffrey Schilling from the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

"(Schilling) was actually rescued by a lone policeman named SPO3 Hajim Tigbang," she said.

The former senator noted that Tigbang was not given the proper credit for Schilling's freedom.

"I feel bad about this because when a Muslim commits crimes, he immediately makes it to the headlines but when an ordinary, poor policeman, a Taosug at that, rescued a kidnapped foreigner, not even a commendation was extended," Rasul said.

She said she conducted an investigation here and in Sulu after hearing that Tigbang rescued Schilling and that members of the local police and the 2nd Infantry Marine Battalion only served as reinforcements.

Rasul said Tigbang's son, Midzfar, saw a shirtless and barefoot Schilling walking in Sitio Bato-Bato in Barangay Katmindus in Lu'uk, Sulu.

Midzfar immediately told his father. The elder Tigbang, armed with a 9-mm pistol, went to Bato-Bato, saw the hostage and asked him if he was Schilling.

"But Schilling got tense and refused to talk," Rasul said.

After Tigbang showed his police identification card and his badge, he and Schilling quietly pushed the motorcycle away from the area to avoid making a noise, she said. "In fact, it was Schilling who pushed the motorbike."

Tigbang, however, caught the attention of the Abu Sayyaf when he started the motorcycle engine.

The bandits fired at them. Tigbang advised Schilling to take refuge in the bushes and fired back at the bandits.

"Fortunately, reinforcements arrived, resulting in a 15-minute exchange of gunfire," Rasul said.

The bandits were overpowered and fled, she said.

Tigbang brought Schilling to the house of Lu'uk Mayor Abdurakman Arbison, she added.

Rasul said the policeman would have been killed if his son did not call for reinforcement.

"Now look at all the headlines, there was no mention of Tigbang. President Macapagal-Arroyo lauded all these military officials. It was unfortunate for Tigbang who risked his life to save a foreign kidnap victim," Rasul said.

Acting Sulu Gov. Hadji Munib Estino also cited Tigbang for his role in Schilling's rescue.

"It was a great effort for him. He put his own life at stake . . . he should be commended not only by the people of Sulu and our country but also by the US government," Estino said in Filipino.

On Sunday, the President commended the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Lu'uk police command for Schilling's rescue.

Yesterday, Ms Macapagal said in her weekly press conference that Tigbang would be brought to Manila to be formally commended.

"The US government's debt of gratitude to the Philippine government comes from the act of heroism of a simple, poor Taosug policeman. They do not know who the real hero was. (Tigbang) should be given the highest honors in the PNP," Rasul said.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling said the all-out offensive against the Abu Sayyaf group would continue. "The guidance is to annihilate the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Filipino Roland Ullah is the only remaining hostage of the Abu Sayyaf. Ullah is one of 21 hostages taken by the bandits from a dive resort in Sipadan, Malaysia on April 24 last year.

*Julie Alipala-Inot and Jonathan Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## CAMPAIGN TRAIL

# PPC tearing apart local political groups

By Tonette Orejas
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*
and Romy Amarado and Alex Pal
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Efforts by Gov. Manuel Lapid to deliver a 13-0 victory for the People Power Coalition (PPC) in Pampanga, home province of President Macapagal-Arroyo, have triggered demoralization and disarray within the local Lakas-NUCD.

Lapid has accommodated candidates from the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) and even local coalitions like Buklod Kapampangan, stirring frustration among party members, a provincial chief campaigners of Lakas said Monday.

At least two mayors and two board members confirmed the same sentiment before all Lakas candidates met with Vice Gov. Clayton Olalia, Lakas lead campaign manager, to request for a meeting to resolve differences.

Olalia said the meeting tackled "party concerns" and that another meeting with Lapid has to be called to "settle the problems."

Lapid, in a telephone interview from Quezon City, said all "party problems were being settled." He declined to give details.

### Backlash fear

All four local officials and the campaigner agreed to talk openly about the problems but on condition of anonymity for fear of a backlash.

The accommodation of party outsiders, who now portray themselves as PPC candidates, have failed to distinguish loyal Lakas members who stuck it out with Lapid when he was hounded by administrative and graft cases.

There was also no distinction among those who fought to oust Joseph Estrada and assert the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo through People Power II, the mayors said in separate interviews.

A Lakas insider earlier disclosed that Lapid's "open-arm policy" to non-Lakas members was part of an election racket, saying he demanded between P1 million and P3 million from mayoral candidates seeking his endorsement.

Lapid and 14 incumbent Lakas mayors have denied the accusation.

Less than a month on the campaign trail, the board members said they felt uncomfortable seeing their names next to those of known Estrada supporters in party billboards.

To the chagrin of Lakas leaders, allied candidates have also put up their own billboards, carrying only the names of Lapid and vice gubernatorial hopeful Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, eldest son of the President.

Lapid's open or implied endorsement of non-original Lakas members as mayors, vice mayors, board members and congressional leaders in practically all towns in Pampanga has sown confusion and might diminish the vote-drawing capacity of original Lakas leaders, the mayors said.

The case of reelectionist Angeles City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin was entirely different because Lapid, even before People Power II, had dumped the Lakas candidate because of his alliance with Estrada and his public bickering with Lakas leaders, Lapid confirmed in January.

Lazatin, however, has impressed on his opponents that the President has endorsed him, showing them a photo of the President raising his hand.

But Lakas leaders, citing reports from Malacañang insiders, said Lazatin had his image superimposed on the photo. Lazatin has denied the deceit.

In Dumaguete City, a political group, whose members were endorsed by former President Fidel Ramos last month as the PPC candidates, has bolted the coalition for "betraying the spirit of Edsa II and the masses."

Lawyer Joel Obar, PPC-Promdi mayoral candidate, said he and his group decided to withdraw upon learning that the lineup of reelectionist Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo would be proclaimed official PPC candidates when the coalition's senatorial candidates visit the province today.

"Even as we had carried the load of a 13-0 (vote), we had always been feeling neglected by the PPC. We carried the load only to find out in the end that (the PPC) will be giving the bullets to our enemies in the political arena," Obar told a news conference at their campaign headquarters on Monday.

### All but Magsaysay

He said his group would dump all the PPC senatorial candidates, except Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

Obar was named PPC candidate for Dumaguete mayor by Bais City Mayor Francisco Villanueva, a PPC congressional candidate for the second district.

Remollo and his group were "anointed" PPC candidates in Dumaguete by the coalition's headquarters in Manila.

Obar's ticket is running under the Probinsiya Muna Development Initiative (Promdi) of former Cebu Gov. Emilio Osmeña. Promdi is a party member of the PPC.

Obar said his group was making representations with Osmeña and was "90 percent sure" of getting support. "Should he not support us, we will carry on just the same," Obar added.

He said the PPC leadership lost focus on the reason for its being. "It is no longer different from the traditional political order that had brought this country to almost complete political and social perdition," he said in a statement.

He said the PPC was instead supporting a mayoral candidate who is accused of irregularities. Obar was referring to Remollo, who is also supporting the bid of Miguel Romero, a close associate of former President Joseph Estrada, to reclaim his congressional seat in the second district.

Obar and running mate, Vicente de la Plaza, also accused Remollo of accompanying Panfilo "Ping" Lacson and Ricardo "Dong" Puno, Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates, during their campaign sorties in the city.

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**SEEDLINGS FOR EVACUEES** GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

War evacuees from Rajah Muda in Pikit, North Cotabato, line up for their bags of seedlings and other items from Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza and Col. Hermogenes Esperon, head of the Army's 701st Infantry Brigade, as part of the government's development program.

# Gubernatorial bet survives gun attack

COTABATO CITY—A gubernatorial candidate and a convoy of soldiers on board two military trucks survived an ambush by still unidentified armed men in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, yesterday morning.

But three civilians, two of them children, were killed, while six others were seriously wounded when they were hit by stray bullets.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said two trucks loaded with soldiers were tailing the convoy of Kampi gubernatorial candidate Andal Ampatuan when they were ambushed in Sitio Bualan, Barangay Baka.

The troops were on their way to attend a seminar at the ID headquarters, while Ampatuan and his party were headed for Parang town from Shariff Aguak for a proclamation rally.

Ando said the gunmen's target was Ampatuan, but the soldiers "felt they were the target so they also fired their guns."

Ando said some of the attackers were hit, but a number of civilians were caught in the crossfire.

Killed were Bainot Unda Musa, 56; Abdulsalam Gunda, 5; and Nasser Buka, 13, all of Barangay Baka.

Wounded were Noraisa Kusain, 1; Tato Kusain, 5; Labio Gunda, 47; Salipada Masukat, 29; and Abubakar Salipada, 10.

They are brought to the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center.

Some of the survivors said the bullets that hit the civilians came from Ampatuan's convoy.

Ando said the victims were attending to their farms near the national highway when police and military escorts of Ampatuan fired back at the suspects.

The attackers, who were armed with grenade launchers, and M-16 and M-14 rifles, struck at 9:45 a.m. and were repulsed 30 minutes later with the arrival of more troops from the 6th ID based in Barangay Taviran here, Ando said.

Ampatuan believes his lone rival, reelectionist Gov. Zacaria Candao, was behind the ambush. But Udin Abdula, Candao's spokesperson, denied the allegation.

Abdula said the incident could have been staged to make it appear that Candao and the other Lakas candidates are the villains.

Police and military authorities in Central Mindanao consider the latest assault election-related. *Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Tribal bikers start cross-country trek

By Yolanda Fuertes
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Martin Dumacon, 15, a member of the Matigsalog tribe in Bukidnon, had to plant hundreds of tree seedlings so he can see the country aboard a bike.

Like 30 other young riders who proudly proclaim they belong to indigenous communities, Dumacon braves the unforgiving heat, dust and other elements so he can meet people from other tribes and send a message to those concerned about their sad plight as "*katutubo* (natives)."

Planting seedlings in their communities is just one of the requirement before the riders can join the LakbayK-Tribo 2001, the third nationwide cycling caravan for Mother Earth and for the indigenous peoples of the Philippines.

"Many wanted to join, but few are chosen," Jimmy Domingo of the Reaps Foundation, a co-organizer of the LakbayK-Tribo 2001, said.

"Participants have to convince their communities that they deserve to join and they must be willing to take leadership roles in their tribes later," he said.

Save for a bike, the riders, aged 15 to 26, get nothing from joining the LakbayK-Tribo caravan.

For 34 days from April 7 to May 12, non-government organizations, local governments and tribe members provide food and lodging for the participants during their stops. The riders will cover 27 laps or a total of 3,500 kilometers in the country that started in Quezon City on April 7 and will end in Cotabato on May 11.

When they return to their communities, they are expected to again plant at least 500 trees.

"But it is pure enjoyment," gushed Laila Coching, 21, an Aeta from Malay, Aklan.

It was the first time that Coching and her cousin Hanalee Coching traveled outside their province.

"Meeting people from other tribes is really a beautiful experience. I did not know that there are Aetas from other provinces like Zambales. I have become friends with other young girls and we found out we have similar problems," Laila Coching said.

Biking through the country's roads is no sweat for Coching who is used to riding a bike to and from school when she was in high school.

"Like other tribes, we live in the mountains, six kilometers away from school. We biked daily up and down the mountains," she said.

Datu Lito Gawilan, a Matigsalog, said the LakbayK-Tribo was started by the Inter-Peoples Exchange (Ipex) in 1999.

Only 10 bikers from various tribes of Mindanao joined the cross-country bike ride then. Two staff members of the Manila-based Ipex, three support staff and a spiritual leader joined them.

The following year, their number increased to 21, coming from 18 indigenous peoples groups in Zambales, Quezon and Mindanao. They biked from Quezon City to the Cordillera and Cotabato.

This year, 31 riders are participating in the bike caravan.

"Many other young people from the different tribes wanted to join but we lack the resources," Domingo said.

In different destinations, formal and informal forums to discuss the caravan's theme are organized with local government officials and members of NGOs and the local communities.

Dialogues and consultations on integrated protected area management are held, as well as community integration with other tribal groups. Along the route, hundreds of cycling enthusiasts pedal with the permanent riders.

"We want to create awareness on the plight of tribal folk," Gawilan said.

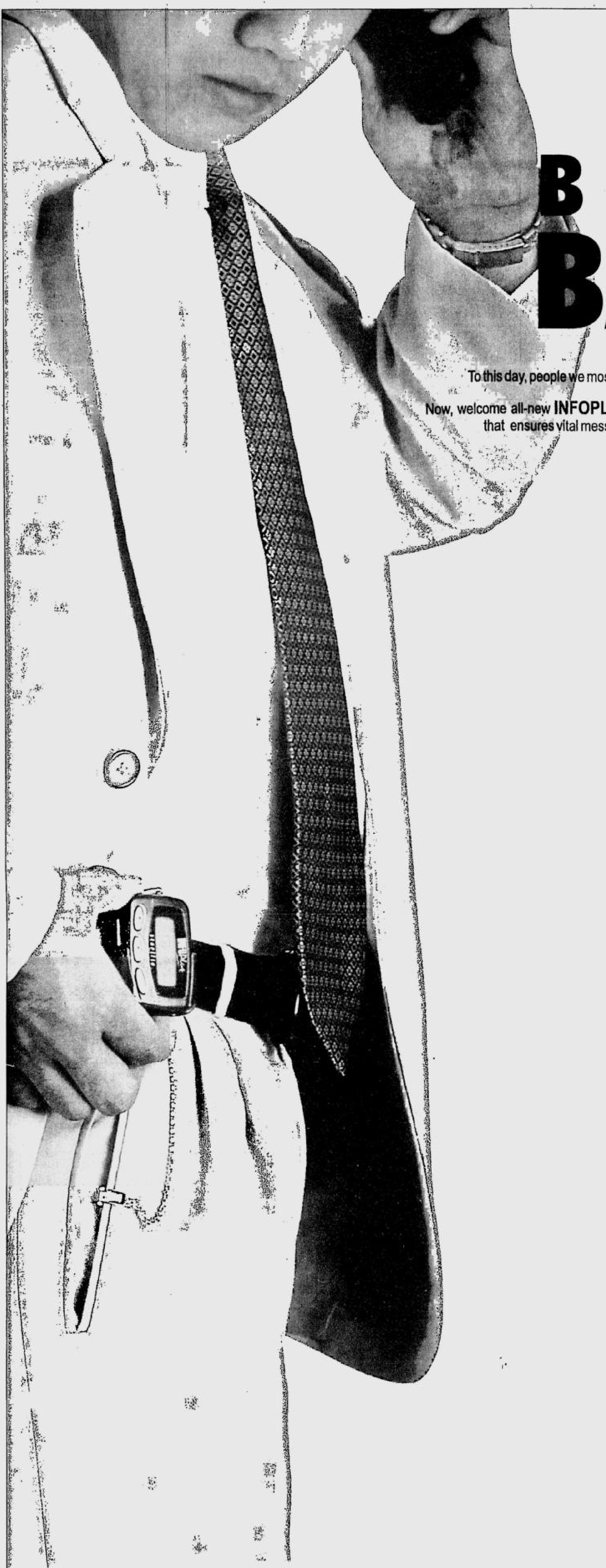
Among the issues affecting tribal communities are ancestral land ownership and peace and order.

Gawilan said tribal folk wanted to be stewards of the land they till, a dream that has eluded most of them.

Members of the different indigenous groups also share experiences in overcoming the odds on issues pertaining to land ownership and the economy, and the preservation of the environment and culture.

"From one tribe, for instance, we learn how they protect their forest. From another, how they protect their cultural heritage. It's a sharing experience and we are really enlightened from the experiences of each tribe," Gawilan said.

Domingo explained that the caravan use bikes because "on bicycles, the riders are open to elements, and therefore, to people's kindness and support."



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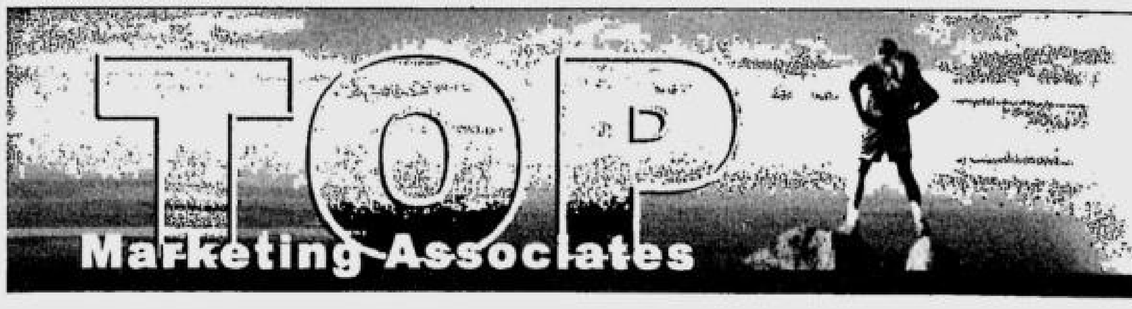

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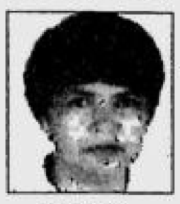
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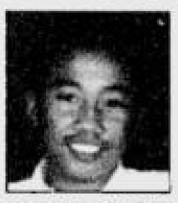
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## Messages

IN BEHALF of the Board of Directors of Pryce Plans, I would like to extend my congratulations to all Cebu caravanners. They have worked very hard last year and it is just fitting for them to be honored and at the same time to have fun and camaraderie with them to celebrate their achievement.

Tonight all of them will receive their award with much honor for their achievement is the result of planning, focus and hard work. It was not an easy path to take for the economic crisis, and personal responsibilities were always there to distract them away from their goal.

But inspite of this, they made it to this year's caravan which makes me proud of their perseverance and their will to win. They have proven to us in immeasurable terms that they are worthy to be included in the ever growing roster of Pryce Plans entrepreneurs.

**SALVADOR P. ESCAÑO**
Chairman

KNOW thyself. Find out what you can be. Fire up your passion. Be courageous.

These simple yet powerful statements are from winners who refuse to give up even when faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Pryce Plans marketing entrepreneurs have adopted these words as their battlecry. Tonight, the best of them shall reap their awards symbolic of their noble and indomitable spirits. Through the joys and pains of hard work, they have become strong and persevering, thus, ending as the victors.

They are ordinary men and women who have achieved extraordinary feats because of this singular ability they have learned to cultivate... to take an empty canvas in their minds and paint it with various hues of the future they have chosen to create.

The realm of the possible always starts in the mind with man's gift to dream and visualize. To quote Henry David Thoreau, "If a man advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, to live the life he has imagined... he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours." With their conquered minds, Pryce Plans elite entrepreneurs' existence never regains its original dimension but expands to include more opportunities and achievements. As they continue to move forward in 2001 and beyond, they will forever be regarded with the highest esteem by management and as role models by their peers.

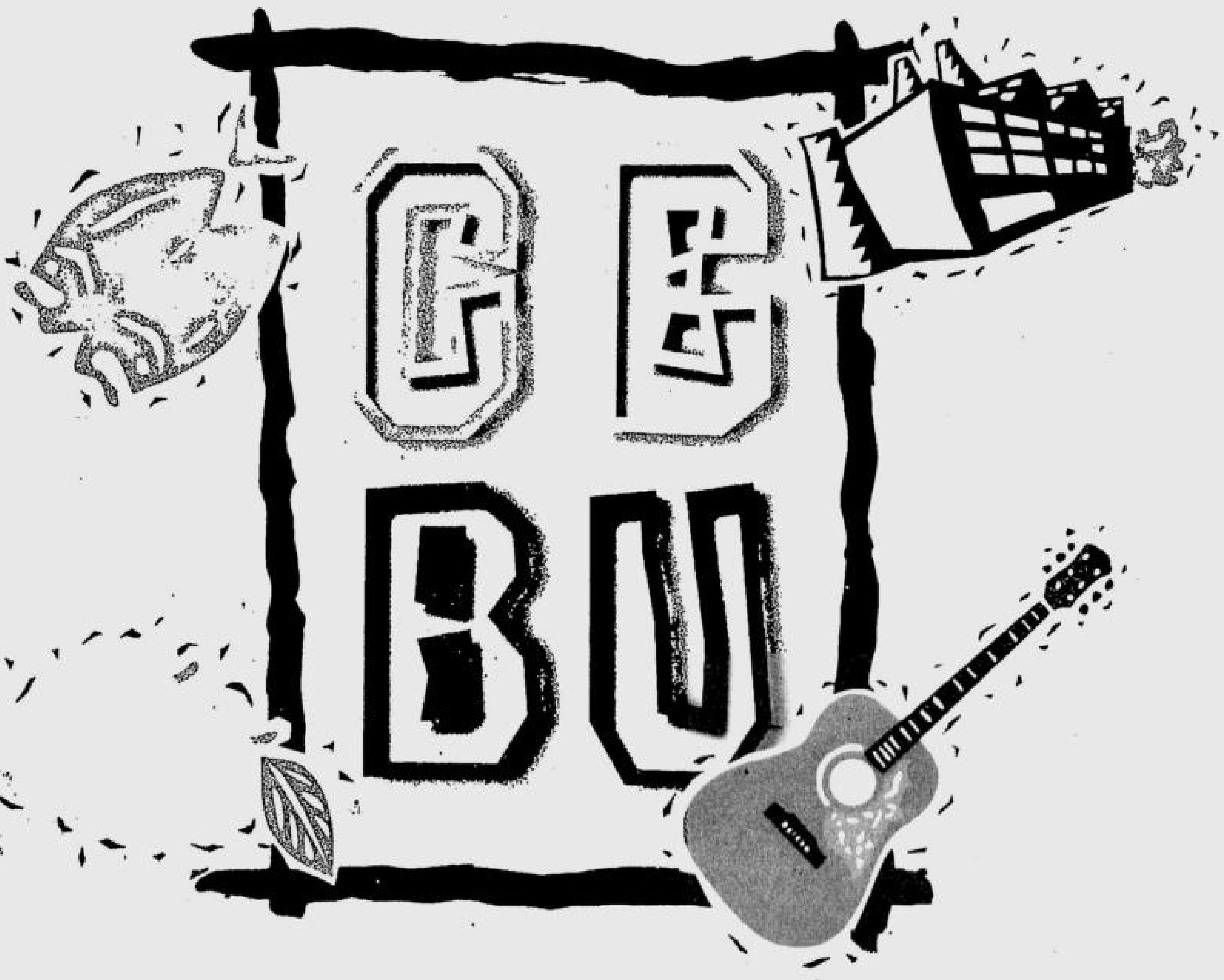
**MARIO M. SILOS**
President

Pryce Plans Cebu host the 11th Annual National Caravan of Elite Entrepreneurs, the much-coveted prize in the race to be Pryce Plans ultimate marketing associates, in the "Queen City of the South."

Cebu inspires the spirit of excellence. The city continues to pulsate with excitement and opportunity. Through the years, it has gone beyond its mangoes-and-danggit image. Cebu City, blessed with strategically located ports, well-planned industrial parks and a hardworking people, lives up to its reputation as the business hub of the Visayas.

While enjoying its success in trade and industry, Cebu refuses to part with its past. She finds strength in its haunting songs, frenetic festival dances, and homegrown art. Its numerous churches stand as silent monuments to its centuries-old religious tradition. Like a siren, her call is irresistible because her value lies in the marriage of the present and the past.

The Caravan takes on the character of Cebu as it promises Pryce Plans elite entrepreneurs of experiences both familiar and new. The awards. The honor. The creativity. The fun. The surprises. And the sense of belonging.



# 11th Annual National Caravan of Elite Entrepreneurs

APRIL 18 - 21, 2001 • CEBU CITY

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ILOILO CITY

**COSCULLUELA, SEBASTIAN, ALFONSO**
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**CROSA, MARVIN C.**
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**DE OCAMPO, DARIA A.**
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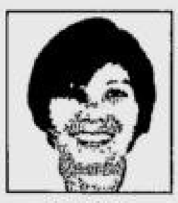
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DAVAO CITY

**ESCAÑO, SHIRLEY T.**
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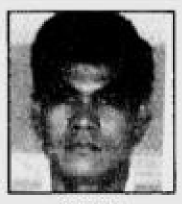
**FEBRERO, MA. FEBE O. (MT)**
DAVAO CITY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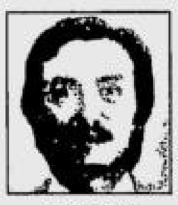
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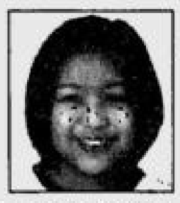
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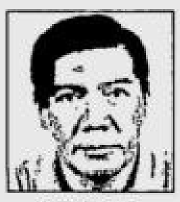
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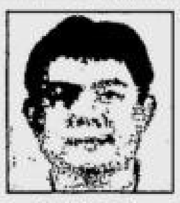
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# BREAKING NEW GROUND IN 2001

The tried and tested methods of entrepreneurship have worked tremendously in the past but in 2001 these have to be imbued with a new kind of spirit, a resoluteness that defies what is traditionally accepted. It gives birth to the idea of going back to basics of salesmanship—a combination of rugged individualism and the unique ability to work fruitfully with others.

This type of entrepreneurship calls for an honest exploration of the sales terrain with an attitude devoid of prejudices from past experiences. The next critical task is to deliberately pinpoint the difficult areas which will be harder to conquer but will give the most satisfying returns. Then the most challenging of them all is to break new ground with a brave heart, superior sales skills and a never say die attitude.

"Breaking New Ground in 2001" connotes taking more risks even beyond one's limits with a promise that what lies ahead shall make up for the hardship and pain. For what awaits the Pryce Plans elite entrepreneur at the end is the joy of victory and the exhilaration in discovering one's immense power to seek, to sow and to reap.

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

# Pineda loses grip on 'jueteng,' politics

By Tonette Orejas
*Pampanga*

**"*PARA akong ketong* (As if I were a leper)," Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda uttered almost mutely of his predicament now.**

The suspected gambling lord did not make an effort to hide his misery, recalled a high-ranking Central Luzon police official who met with Pineda in February.

The police official was among the few that Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief, sent to Pampanga in February to warn the suspected gambling lord "not to regain his foothold on 'jueteng' operations."

It was very remarkably odd for the money-eyed, powerful and influential Pineda to harbor feelings of being an outcast, the police official and an insider in Pineda's camp said in separate interviews.

For two decades since the early 1980s, Pineda commanded authority by mastering the fusion of jueteng and politics, a system never done extensively by his predecessors in Luzon and one that, Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said in published reports, had a corrupting effect on the government.

Sources repeatedly point to Pineda's practice of contributing heavily to the campaign kitties of national and local politicians.

Police and local officials disclosed that he also meddled in politics by picking his candidates and mobilizing his vast network of *cabos* (jueteng area managers) and *cobradores* (collectors) to ensure their victories at the polls.

He also had the final say in the appointments of police chiefs, regional directors and judges, and worked for their removal when they were not cooperative.

He cultivated ties with the military and the media by dispensing protection money and by marrying his daughter to one of the scions of a once influential police general.

On the side, he pampered the masses, from whom he sucked out millions of pesos in bets by providing them money for educational scholarships, medical treatment, burial expenses, and practically all their daily needs.

In all his dealings, police sources said he only demanded one thing: Keep the illegal numbers game going without any hitches.

## 'Juetengate'

He reaped their clandestine support even when one president after another ordered a crackdown on jueteng.

Pineda expanded his operations during the term of former President Corazon Aquino, dodged the blows of the succeeding Ramos administration and, according to Juetengate whistleblower Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, found a patron in deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Singson had said Pineda was among the jueteng lords who handed out a sizable amount in the P440-million protection money he collected for Estrada for 22 months until August last year.

The scandal that triggered the downfall and disgrace of his patron and People Power II that installed President Macapagal-Arroyo reversed Pineda's fortune.

Recalling his almost two-hour conversation with Pineda, the ranking police official said the man admitted realizing that jueteng can remove a President out of Malacañang and that it could really be damaging for public officials, especially the President, to be strongly accused of protecting jueteng operations and enriching from these.

PINEDA: 'Jueteng' can remove a president.

It may well be a harsh realization for Pineda who, in 1998, was acquitted of charges of corrupting public officials, an offense punishable by up to eight years in prison.

## Marginalized

Returning inconspicuously to the country late January after a three-month stay in the United States in an apparent attempt to survive Juetengate, Pineda found himself marginalized by the scandal.

"The closest of his friends do not call on him anymore. They also do not answer his phone calls. His backers in the military and the police have abandoned him *kasi pera-pera lang ang relasyon nila* (because their relationships were rooted mainly in money)," said the police official.

"They were just his friends for convenience," said the Pineda insider of the alleged gambling lord's connections in the military and the police.

Not wanting to be tainted by the jueteng scandal, politicians—who usually queued up in his mansions at Greenhills in San Juan, Metro Manila, and at Barangay Concepcion in Lubao, Pampanga, kissed his hands and called him "Boss" or "2-1"—have dumped Pineda, evading him like the plague, the insider added.

But if some local officials in Pampanga have changed camps, it was because Melchor "Ngongo" Caluag and three other suspected jueteng operators have been more generous compared with Pineda, who gave more to the "higher-ups," the police official said.

## 'Hands-off' policy

But Pineda, according to the insider, deliberately stopped meddling in politics, decided to reduce the scope and scale of his operations, and kept a "hands-off" policy on jueteng operations.

It is his brother Ruben, whose name was mentioned several times in the impeachment trial, who is now running jueteng in his stead, sources said. Many of Pineda's trusted *cabos* have moved to the camps of small operators, the sources added.

"He does not want to be the cause of the downfall of GMA (the initials of the President) because he knows she's not an elected President. He is aware that if he touches base with GMA, he will do her harm. *Dumistansya na siya nang kusa* (He voluntarily distanced himself from the President). He's been a recluse since he returned home," said the insider.

Lubao, Pineda's base, is also the hometown of the late President Diosdado Macapagal, the President's father.

The insider said it was her being a Kapampangan that Pineda was too careful not to embarrass her and her administration.

"Bong knew the opposition would use him at anytime against the President. He did not want to be used by either camp," the insider said.

It was persistently reported that Pineda contributed to the campaign coffers of Ms Macapagal when she ran for senator and Vice President, an issue that was revived during the investigation of the jueteng scandal by the Senate blue ribbon committee.

## GMA denial

Ms Macapagal has vehemently denied having received funds from Pineda. The issue hounded her until February, with her explaining to the media that her relations with the Pinedas merely concern the "official functions" of Lilia Pineda, mayor of Lubao and wife of Bong Pineda.

Several sources among local officials said this distance was an "unusual but calculating move" for Pineda, who began establishing his ties with the camp of Ms Macapagal in 1994 when he gave her father a tribute.

Sources declined to tell if Pineda's seemingly cooperative moves were concessions for the administration's withdrawal of plunder charges against him.

"*Gusto niyang magpahinga muna. Alam niyang bubugbugin siya* (He wanted to rest first. He knows that he would be mauled)," the police official noted.

The INQUIRER exerted all efforts to contact the Pinedas for an interview. Their emissaries, however, said the Pinedas do not want to be interviewed.

Unlike in past elections, "Bong is not a factor anymore," the official added.

But other jueteng operators have reportedly used the same tack taken by Pineda: Mix jueteng and politics.

Two suspected jueteng operators are gambling in politics by joining the councilors' race in order to further secure the racket.

Pineda has only parochial interests in Lubao, limiting his support to the candidacies of his wife Lilia for a provincial board seat and his son Dennis for the mayoral post Lilia would be vacating.

"*Binubuhos lahat ni* Bong *ang pera niya kay* Dennis *at* Lilia (Bong's pouring in his money to Dennis and Lilia). He does not anymore support (a congressional candidate)," the source said.

The insider confirmed this, explaining that Pineda "is only concerned now with the political career of his wife and son. His money is pouring only in Lubao, his cuckoo's nest."

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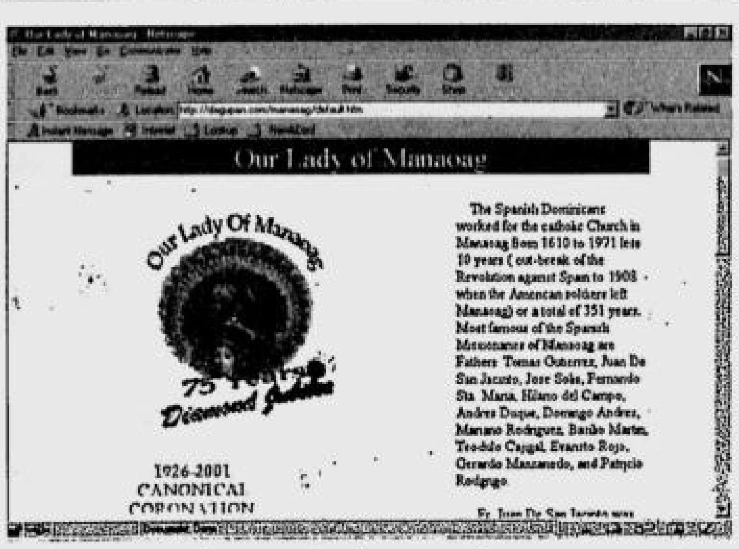

Our Lady of Manaoag

The Spanish Dominicans worked for the catholic Church in Manaoag from 1610 to 1971 less 10 years ( out-break of the Revolution against Spain to 1908 when the American soldiers left Manaoag) or a total of 351 years. Most famous of the Spanish Missionaries of Manaoag are Fathers Tomas Gutierrez, Juan De San Jacinto, Jose Sola, Fernando Sta. Maria, Hilario del Campo, Andres Duque, Domingo Andres, Mariano Rodriguez, Basilio Martin, Teodulo Cagigal, Evaristo Rojo, Gerardo Manzanedo, and Patricio Rodrigo.

Fr. Juan De San Jacinto was

# And now, it's prayer online

By Gobleth Moulic
*Pangasinan*

**IS prayer the fastest communication to God?**

All believers agree, but to Roman Catholic faithful, they tap the Internet to send their prayer requests online. The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has been using the Internet to reach out to Catholics, especially to those who cannot go to church to pray.

In Pangasinan, several parish priests have expressed willingness to put up their own website to host the Our Lady of Manaoag, a religious shrine which Catholics believe to have miraculous tales and healing powers, in the pilgrimage town of Manaoag.

If this project comes true, any practicing Catholic around the globe can readily offer his or her prayers to Our Lady of Manaoag in just one click of the mouse—without directly going to Manaoag.

All he or she needs is a computer, a telephone and an Internet service to be able to connect with and project his or her petition before the Catholic icon.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, immediate past president of the CBCP, said the Catholic Church has long been appreciative of the wonders of information technology.

"It has the potential for good or evil—for virtue, such as the transmission of the truth of the Gospel and the Church's social teaching, or vice, such as the peddling of smut and promotion of gambling," said Cruz, who also heads the Lingayen-Dagupan Diocese in Pangasinan.

In fact, he said, the Church has the official 1992 Magna Carta on information technology titled "At The Dawn of the New Era (Latin: Aetatis Novae)."

To prove that the Philippines is actively involved in IT, Cruz said the CBCP has long been maintaining a website: www.cbcb.net, which in 1999 became a porn-free ISP (Internet Service Provider) known as CBCP.net.

"The (CBCP cybercafe) is now being fine-tuned in Dagupan City, with a rather big band-width to accommodate other places in the Ilocos region," he said.

## Tapping Internet

Wilson Chua, owner of Bitstop Computer Store based in Dagupan City, has offered his services to design and host the website of Our Lady of Manaoag for free.

Chua, a devout Catholic, said people from other parts of the globe could tap the Internet if it's impossible for them to personally visit Our Lady of Manaoag Shrine.

"The idea of course, is that prayer online is just the first step. Once people get used to sending in their prayer requests, donations and similar things would follow," he said.

Chua said his firm has already established the prototype site (http://dagupan.com/manaoag/default.htm). The website has already put up a bulletin board (http://mailserver.dagupan.com/exchange/root.asp?acs=anon) where one can simply log into the Our Lady of Manaoag folder.

Fr. Filemon de la Cruz Jr. of Our Lady of Manaoag Convent welcomed the project although it has yet to be officially approved by his superior, Fr. Patricio Apa.

De la Cruz said "it is as good as approved because the Church has been online for quite sometime."

The problem, however, lies on who among the priests would be willing to assume the responsibility of supervising the website.

"One main factor of the delay (in carrying out the project) is the person who would feed the information, receive messages and maintain the whole operations. That's a difficulty we have to settle first," he said.

De la Cruz, who has been with Our Lady of Manaoag Convent for four years now, said they would include in the website the map of Manaoag, the history of Our Lady of Manaoag, other places near the church, among other pertinent information.

With this development, several people are asking: Will e-mailed prayers "dehumanize" the pulpit? Do prayers, transmitted through a technological medium like telephones or the Internet, still impart the same kind of spirituality?

The Internet is not meant to substitute human communication, Cruz said, adding that those making prayer requests are not absolved from praying themselves.

He said: "They should be certain that their requests do not simply remain in the computer: requesting computers to pray for us is asking too much from these. Nothing beats personal prayer.

"All believers can always be 'online' in addressing God, wherever they are, whatever time of the day it is—as it has been for centuries before the computer was even thought of. The Good Lord is always on call, even without Internet service."

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# Hope for a troubled river

By Gia Damaso-Dumo
*La Union*

**LA Union has often been described as a place "where the mountain meets the sea" because its narrow surface is embossed with rugged hills on the border of Benguet, sparse rolling plains and tapered shores that change with the tide of the South China Sea.**

Creatively, its development planners have transformed nature's limitations into marketing sound bites for potential investors, particularly in the Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone (PPSEFPZ) located in the capital, San Fernando City.

But between the mountains and the sea winds a river that goes by many names in the communities to which it gives life.

Called "Balili," "Ribsuan" or "Bagulin" in the uplands, the Naguilian River basin is now the focus of rehabilitation efforts because of the continued threats of denudation and pollution to what could well be the Ilocos' most important resource.

The Naguilian is the major source of water in central La Union. Pumping stations of major water districts and industrial sites—the Metro La Union Water District, the Naguilian Water District, Bauang Private Power Corp. and John Hay Poro Point Development Corp. (JPDC)—are found in the downstream portion of the basin.

The river is also a source of irrigation for agricultural production and of aggregates and boulders for the construction needs of Baguio City and La Union.

Now, it is being eyed to play another important role in sustaining the proposed economic activities in the PPSEFPZ.

The zone, the site of the former Wallace Air Station and the Voice of America, was at the forefront of development initiatives in the North Luzon Growth Area, an economic sub-region comprising the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Cordillera.

Envisioned to become a mixed light industrial, commercial and tourism estate, it held the promise of 14,000 new jobs, a large influx of tourists and brisk economic activity. The master plan also included a world-class golf course that, according to JPDC, would require 2.5 million gallons of water daily to maintain.

## Denuded watershed

But not known to many is the state of the watershed that was intended to supply the water needs of the PPSEFPZ.

According to records of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, only 1.7 percent of effective forest cover remains of the over 12,000 hectares of public forests within the Naguilian River basin. The acceptable average figure is 30percent effective forest cover.

The denudation has been attributed to unabated cutting of trees that have fed the kilns of tobacco farmers for decades. It was estimated that 13 cubic meters of fuel wood were needed to produce a ton of cured tobacco, of which La Union is the region's second leading producer.

The slash-and-burn or "kaingin" system, which has been practiced due to the lack of farming areas. Increasing population pressure have also significantly reduced the forest cover.

It is quite easy to see how the upland ecosystem is directly linked to the lowland ecosystem.

Or, as the DENR would explain it, how the forest, grassland and agricultural ecosystems in the uplands are connected to agricultural, urban, mangrove, sea grass, coral and marine ecosystems of the lowlands.

The Naguilian River basin traverses the geographic boundaries of La Union and Benguet. The La Union portion, which is the focus of the program, has a total land area of 28,028 hectares, 14 percent of which is classified as timberland while the rest are alienable and disposable.

The program covers the towns of Naguilian, Bagulin, and Burgos and portions of Bauang, San Gabriel and San Fernando City.

There are three major rivers of the basin: the larger Naguilian, the Ribsuan and the Bauang.

The headwaters of the Naguilian and Ribsuan emanate from Benguet; the rivers then converge at the Bauang and drain into the South China Sea.

Already, 85 percent of Burgos' total land area has been denuded and severely eroded. In Naguilian town, the figure is 44 percent, and in San Fernando, 35 percent.

With the loss of forest cover, other environmental ills have started to set in, such as sedimentation and siltation, flash flooding and drought, decline in biodiversity, and increase in air pollution, according to the DENR.

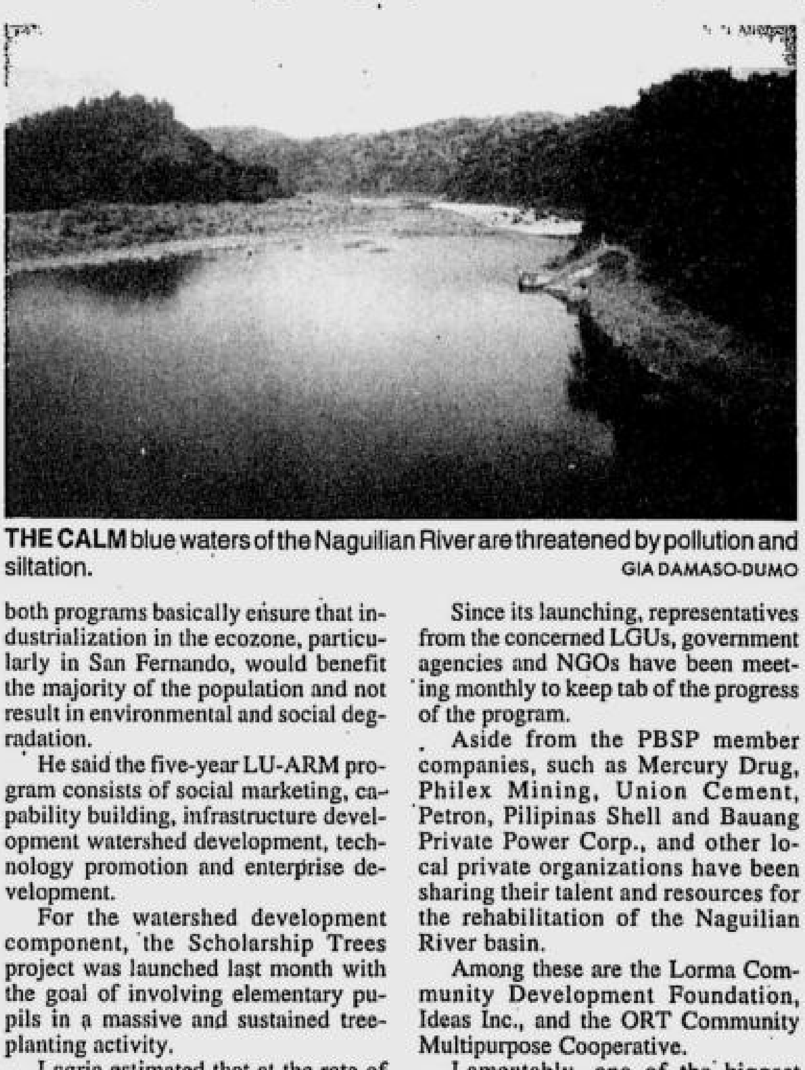
## NGO-LGU initiative

In September 1999, the provincial government led by Gov. Justo Orros Jr. entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), a foundation of 169 major private companies, to jointly implement the La Union Area Resource Management (LU-ARM) program.

The LU-ARM complements the former's Central La Union Metro Planning Area (CELUMEPA) and the latter's High Growth Area Resource Management (HG-ARM) program.

Started in 1998, the CELUMEPA has received foreign assistance from the World Bank and other entities, upon the initiative of the LGUs concerned. The HG-ARM, started in 1993, was implemented in five other economic zones in the country—Laguna, Metro Cebu, Bacolod-Talisay, Cagayan de Oro-Iligan and Samal Island.

According to James Paul Lagria, PBSP program officer for La Union, both programs basically ensure that industrialization in the ecozone, particularly in San Fernando, would benefit the majority of the population and not result in environmental and social degradation.



THE CALM blue waters of the Naguilian River are threatened by pollution and siltation.
GIA DAMASO-DUMO

He said the five-year LU-ARM program consists of social marketing, capability building, infrastructure development watershed development, technology promotion and enterprise development.

For the watershed development component, the Scholarship Trees project was launched last month with the goal of involving elementary pupils in a massive and sustained tree-planting activity.

Lagria estimated that at the rate of five trees per student, the six participating towns would be able to re-green at least 30 hectares of the basin this year alone.

Since its launching, representatives from the concerned LGUs, government agencies and NGOs have been meeting monthly to keep tab of the progress of the program.

Aside from the PBSP member companies, such as Mercury Drug, Philex Mining, Union Cement, Petron, Pilipinas Shell and Bauang Private Power Corp., and other local private organizations have been sharing their talent and resources for the rehabilitation of the Naguilian River basin.

Among these are the Lorma Community Development Foundation, Ideas Inc., and the ORT Community Multipurpose Cooperative.

Lamentably, one of the biggest stakeholders of the program, the JPDC, has not involved itself in the program and has been reportedly lukewarm to the idea.

# Erap arrest will have minimal effect on economy, says Gloria

**(From page A1)**

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) said it would field about 100 volunteers to aid the Sandigan sheriff in apprehending Estrada should the anti-graft court order his arrest for the charge of plunder.

The group presented its volunteers—burly men and women, all wearing black hoods—at a press conference.

"If the government's arresting officers fear of their safety, the VACC will not hesitate to effect a citizens' arrest on Estrada," said Dante Jimeñez, the group's chair and president.

Jimenez said the sheriff or his men might be frightened or hindered in their attempt to arrest the ex-president by groups whose members have been picketing the gates leading to the Estrada residence in North Greenhills, San Juan.

Should Estrada refuse to give himself up, Jimenez said, the volunteers would be quickly provided copies of the arrest warrant and instructed to look for him "anywhere."

"As approved by law, any citizen can serve a warrant on any person wanted for any criminal offense. The VACC's move is to give moral support to the sheriff," Jimenez said.

He said some of the volunteers might just keep track of Estrada's whereabouts so that the sheriff would not have difficulty in locating him.

In Cagayan de Oro City, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel said he hoped Estrada's supporters would not resort to drastic actions should the ex-president be arrested for alleged plunder.

Pimentel said Estrada should use his trial as an occasion to clear his name.

### Large majority

Results of a Social Weather Stations survey conducted April 1-4 showed that a large majority of Filipinos want Estrada to be tried for the criminal charges against him.

The SWS survey, commissioned by the People Power Coalition principally to determine the electoral chances of its 13 senatorial candidates, showed that 62 percent of the 1,500 respondents favored subjecting Estrada to trial to determine whether he is guilty of the charges aired during his impeachment trial at the Senate.

A PPC statement said there was a 43 percent net agreement to having Estrada charged criminally.

PPC spokesperson Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco presented the highlights of the survey at a press conference, together with SWS executive director Mahar Mangahas.

But Limcaoco did not release the complete data of the survey, the second SWS poll commissioned by the PPC.

A PPC statement said that of the 62 percent in favor of an Estrada trial, 70 percent were from Metro Manila; 69 percent from Southern Luzon; 63 percent from Northern and Central Luzon; 65 percent from the Visayas; and 45 percent from Mindanao.

It said 27 percent from Mindanao were undecided.

### Hold order

The Bureau of Immigration issued yesterday a hold-departure order on Estrada and seven of his relatives and close associates who are facing trial for plunder and indirect bribery before the Sandiganbayan.

The others named in the hold order were former first lady Luisa Ejercito, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, former presidential legislative liaison secretary Jose Jaime Policarpio Jr., Charlie "Atong" Ang, Eleuterio Tan, Alma Alfaro and Delia Rajas.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo ordered Estrada's inclusion in the bureau's hold-departure list upon the order of the Sandigan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena.

Domingo said that except for Tan, Alfaro and Rajas, it was the second time that Estrada and his co-accused were issued hold orders since the ex-president was ousted by People Power II in January.

The first time that Estrada, his wife and son, Policarpio and Ang were banned from leaving the country was on Jan. 23, when they and 19 other persons were issued hold orders by the Department of Justice.

The second travel ban against Estrada stemmed from a graft case filed by the Ombudsman in connection with the alleged diversion of P130 million in tobacco excise taxes that was released to the province of Ilocos Sur.

Estrada was accused of receiving the money from Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson through bank transfers sometime between July and August 1998.

The names of Tan, Alfaro and Rajas—said to be trusted aides of Ang—surfaced during Estrada's impeachment trial, when they were named as having allegedly withdrawn the money from several banks in Metro Manila. ***Reports from Donna S. Cueto, Christine Avendano, Jerome Aning, Juliet L. Javellana, Gerald G. Lacuarta and AFP***

# Estrada: I feel vindicated already

**(From page A1)**

are very displeased by the actions of the Ombudsman of withdrawing the cases. After so much fanfare, filing multiple charges against Mr. Estrada and, in the process, creating so much adverse publicity, they have realized that five of the eight charges cannot be legally sustained."

Some of the criminal cases lodged against Estrada are interrelated and could entail the use of similar evidence and witnesses.

To preempt this, prosecutors from the Office of the Ombudsman, Department of Justice, Office of the Solicitor General and lawyers representing private complainants decided to withdraw certain graft cases for now.

Four motions to withdraw information were filed yesterday with the Sandiganbayan.

But according to Sandigan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, prosecutors no longer have control over a case once it is filed.

He also said no arrest warrants would be served on Estrada and members of his family as the anti-graft court still had to resolve the motions to withdraw the cases.

"At this time, in so far as the Estrada family (members are) concerned, my understanding is that they posted bail. For as long as we have not resolved the motions to withdraw and . . . the documents or the evidence have not been submitted, then there is no question about the issuing of the arrest (warrants) because we'll have no basis for (this)," Garchitorena said.

He also said the bail posted would remain in effect as long as the cases were active.

### 'Jueteng' money

The Ombudsman pulled out the graft charges in connection with Estrada's alleged acceptance of "jueteng" money from gambling lords and kickbacks from the P130-million excise tax on tobacco supposedly for farmers in Ilocos Sur, his alleged pressure on the Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System to purchase Belle Corp. stocks, and his reported meddling in the Securities and Exchange Commission's probe on the BW Resources stock scandal.

For these allegations, Estrada had been charged with violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

On Monday, the Ombudsman initially withdrew a case charging him with violating the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards of Government Officials and Employees.

Apart from the plunder case, the criminal cases against Estrada left at the Sandigan are those involving perjury (concerning his alleged submission of a false statement of assets and liabilities in 1999) and illegal use of an alias (an offshoot of his use of the name "Jose Velarde" in opening a trust account in Equitable PCI Bank).

There are seven more cases against Estrada pending with the Ombudsman, Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio said.

These include six plunder cases filed by various parties and a forfeiture case in connection with Estrada's alleged ill-gotten assets.

It is not clear whether the Ombudsman will withhold action on these pending cases given its decision to withdraw the graft cases from the Sandigan.

Desierto noted that the plunder charge against Estrada also touched on these instances of graft.

Government prosecutors apparently fear that Estrada's lawyers will object to the repetitive citing of his alleged offenses in more than one case.

Besides, Desierto pointed out, witnesses like Equitable-PCIBank senior vice president Clarissa Ocampo would be made to testify in more than one case.

This means it is also possible that if all graft cases are heard simultaneously in the Sandigan's five divisions, Ocampo and other witnesses will be made to testify in two or more courts in one day, he said.

### 'Biggest' one

Desierto said that by focusing on the plunder case, government prosecutors would train all their efforts on the case believed sufficient to pin down the former president.

"We don't want to give the defense a chance to delay the proceedings in the plunder case because it is the biggest one and it resolves all issues about Erap," he said.

The plunder charge, involving alleged corruption amounting to more than P4 billion, is non-bailable and punishable by death.

At the same press conference, private lawyer Ricardo Nepomuceno expressed hope that the Sandigan would allow daily hearings on the criminal cases against Estrada.

"Plunder remains the ultimate issue against the former president, and the private prosecutors are willing to go on leave from their other cases to concentrate on this," Nepomuceno said.

"However, we hope that the Sandiganbayan will allow daily hearings so we can stretch our limited resources in the meantime," he added.

Estrada, who has consistently denied all the charges pending against him in the anti-graft court, said he would not agree to have his trial opened to live media coverage, the way it was at his aborted impeachment trial.

"The rich own these TV networks and they will surely turn the trial into a circus. And they will make everything appear to be working against me. At the impeachment trial, the 11 senators were depicted as villains (*kontra bida*)," he said.

He was referring to the 11 senator-judges who voted to suppress potentially damning evidence on the "Jose Velarde" account.

The prevailing "no" vote triggered a walkout in the prosecution side and eventually spilled into street protests that led to People Power II.

Earlier, Fortun said he was amenable to just have "sketches" of the trial taken by the media in place of actual news photos or video footage.

### May or may not

The Sandigan's first division under Garchitorena has set a hearing on Thursday on the motions to withdraw. Another division has set a hearing on Friday.

"We may allow the withdrawal of the information or we may not," Garchitorena told reporters.

He added: "It depends (on) the clarifications, the explanations given, and, by the way, also (on) the documents that were supposed to be submitted in connection with this case.

"Because when a case is filed, the presumption is there is a good reason for filing it. So when a case is withdrawn, there has to be a good reason for withdrawing it. We are here to listen to that . . . We all want to hear what the Office of the Ombudsman has to say . . ."

But withdrawing the cases is "permissible," Garchitorena said.

"But as I said earlier, in a decision of the Supreme Court, the prosecution does not have control (over cases filed) anymore. It is the court that must decide whether it would be proper for the case to be withdrawn or not," he said.

Justice Narciso Nario, chair of the Sandigan's fourth division, had this to say: "They should not be joking here (considering the fact that) they are filing the cases against the former president."

In Cagayan de Oro City, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel said the Ombudsman's decision to drop the five graft charges showed that the government's case against Estrada was "weak."

But he conceded that the move to "husband evidence" on the plunder charge was a good strategy.

"It is a good thing to focus on one strong case. Anyway, plunder is a serious case," he said.

Pimentel said Estrada's lawyers could still seek a legal remedy by asking the Sandigan for a reinvestigation of the plunder charge.

House Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte expressed support for the Ombudsman's decision.

"It's just a tactical withdrawal. I think the reasons (Desierto) gave were fair, There were many other cases they should concentrate on," Belmonte said.

But he added: "In fact, I'm against their filing of frivolous cases. I want them to file substantial cases. In addition to the eight, I think they have a few more coming up. I think they filed one for violation of ethical standards. What is the meaning of that? I want them to file malversation of public funds, not those (involving) ethical crimes." ***With a report from Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

# Cory advice to Tañada . . .

**(From page A1)**

"Don't be shy anymore. Shake hands with people because they would like to shake hands with you," she told Tañada during a *merienda* get-together with the latter's friends and supporters at the Mundial restaurant in Quezon City.

Ms Aquino said she, too, used to be shy when meeting people, "But I guess, I eventually learned."

She said Tañada might be a shy person but he is such a good man when one gets to know him.

And hope springs eternal for the woman who was installed to power after the 1986 People Power uprising that ousted the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"I have not lost hope," she said of Tanada's chances of making it to the top 13 in the senatorial election.

While Ms Aquino had committed to work for a 13-0 victory for the PPC bets, she admitted candidly that she specifically wants to help out those who are not doing well in surveys.

"All it needs is extra effort (to campaign for Tañada)," she said.

She told those present at the get-together that there was enough time to campaign hard for Tañada so he could win. She even urged them to visit factories in shifts, to reach out to workers there—something that she did before.

To declare her whole-hearted support for him, Ms Aquino gamely posed with Tañada before photographers and cameramen and then proceeded to tape a political advertisement with the candidate.

In the ad, Ms Aquino said that Tañada would be on top of her list when she turns in her ballot on Election Day.

Tañada's aides said the ad was produced by his friends.

Ms Aquino said she was supporting Tañada because the Senate needs dedicated public servants like him.

Tañada belongs to the Liberal Party where her son, Benigno III, is secretary general. She said Tañada's name appears first in the LP's sample ballot.

Ms Aquino said she also supports Tañada because she was "personally beholden" to his family.

Tañada is the son of the late Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, who fought the Marcos dictatorship like Ms Aquino's late husband Benigno.

Tañada profusely thanked Ms Aquino and his friends for their support.

"I don't know what I've done to merit all those good things you've said about me," he told Ms Aquino as he vowed to do his best in the Senate and to live up to the people's expectations.

"I am flabbergasted," Tañada told the INQUIRER when asked about his reaction to Ms Aquino's endorsement.

He described her endorsement as "divine intervention."

Tañada said he would attend Ms Aquino's rally in Tarlac on May 1.

Aside from the ad of Ms Aquino, Tañada also has one of Sister Christine Tan urging voters to elect him.

Tañada was scheduled to proceed last night to a "lugawan" sponsored by another group of friends who are helping him raise campaign funds so they could print more posters.

The P1,000-per-plate fundraiser gets the donor a bowl of *lugaw* (rice porridge) and a glass of juice. Several artists including Coritha, Noel Cabangon and Malou de Guzman will perform.

Artists and writers have donated some of their works for a raffle during the fundraiser. Among the prizes are sketches and other artworks by Bencab, Danny Dalena, Rock Drilon, Jose Tence Ruiz, Pandy Aviado, Imelda Cajipe Endaya, Egai Fernandez, Antipas Delotavo, and Adi Baens Santos, among others.

NGAYONG ELEKSIYON, ITO ANG TAMA.

RED HORSE BEER

Sundin ang gun ban law ngayong halalan.

# Dacer murders solved–PNP

(From page A1)

A team of forensic experts led by Dr. Raquel Fortun and hired by the Dacer family declared last week that the remains found by a creekside in Indang. belonged to Dacer and Corbito.

The NBI had arrested two farmers from Cavite who said PAOCTF members abducted and killed Dacer and Corbito.

## Memorial service

The Dacer family will hold a memorial service on Saturday at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park in Makati at around 1 p.m.

After a concelebrated Mass, the family will pay tribute to their patriarch.

Tomorrow, the Senate is set to hold a public hearing on the Dacer case to be conducted by the Senate committee on justice and human rights chaired by Senate Minority Leader Renato Cayetano.

Early this year, Cayetano filed a resolution seeking to conduct an inquiry on the disappearance of Dacer and his driver.

## Lacson tagged

The suspect, who may turn state witness, is now undergoing tactical interrogation, said a police officer who did not want to be named.

According to this INQUIRER source, the suspect testified that the surveillance of Dacer began in 1999 at the height of the word war between former PNP Chief, Panfilo Lacson and his predecessor Roberto Lastimoso Jr.

Lacson was reportedly approached by the slain PR practitioner and asked for P20 million to do the hatchet job on Lastimoso.

Lacson declined Dacer's offer. Dacer allegedly turned to Lastimoso who hired him for P3 million, according to the suspect.

The word war between the two police officials heated up after Lacson accused Lastimoso of coddling drug.syndicates. Lastimoso resigned as PNP chief and Lacson took over the post.

"It would be impossible for the PNP not to include Lacson in the murder charges. He was in the know. But he did not lift a finger even if the agents of the PAOCTF were already implicated. He did not aggressively investigate Dacer's murder because it would point to him in the end," the source told the INQUIRER.

According to Mendoza, Chief Supt. Teofilo Vina denied participation in the killing but admitted it was seven of his men and other PAOCTF civilian agents, who carried out the murders. Vina allegedly led the police to the suspects now under the custody of the CIDG.

According to Gualberto, three PAOCTF vehicles without plate numbers, a white Revo, a gray Adventure and a Nissan van, were dispatched on Nov. 24 to be used in the killing.

The Adventure with plate number WHJ-309 fell into a ravine on its way to Baguio City last February. The vehicle was found to be filled with Lacson posters, stickers and streamers.

The Revo with plate number SFU-498 was later traced in Cebu. The van remains missing, he said. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño and Alcuin Papa***

# Erap to sue Inquirer on Dacer story

(From page A1)

my name. And a few hours ago (Philippine National Police chief) Gen. Leandro Mendoza already denied that I had been implicated," he told the INQUIRER from his Polk Street residence in San Juan.

The "report" he was referring to was Chief Supt. Nestoria Gualberto's April 16 memorandum to Mendoza.

The memorandum updated the PNP chief on the "written confessions and supplementary affidavits" obtained by investigators from four of the suspects who had surfaced.

When the memo was faxed to the INQUIRER by Estrada's staff, it showed that what the former President obtained yesterday was a two-page document. It did not bear the signature of Gualberto, chief of the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

"This is no longer just disin-formation but a smear campaign against me and the First Lady (Luisa Ejercito, who is a senatorial candidate of his Puwersa ng Masa)," said Estrada.

"I'm forced to file a libel suit against your paper," Estrada said. It was the first thing he said on the phone.

The allegation of four policemen that Estrada gave the order to their group through Chief Supt. Glen Dumlao to abduct and murder public relations practitioner Salvador "Bubby" Dacer was not contained in the affidavit that they executed before agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

"Estrada's name cropped up during the verbal interrogation," the INQUIRER source said.

Police investigators said that they still had no direct evidence linking Estrada to the murder of Dacer and his driver, Philippine National Police Chief Leandro Mendoza yesterday said.

Mendoza gave the clarification after the INQUIRER reported that during the interrogation of the seven suspects, including four policemen, the suspects claimed that Estrada had indirectly ordered their group to abduct and murder Dacer and his driver.

The seven suspects are part of the 13 persons earlier recommended for prosecution by the NBI, the lead agency handling the Dacer double murder case.

The policemen said that Estrada's order bypassed their immediate superior, Supt. Teofilo Viña, the chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) in the Visayas.

During verbal interrogation the suspects initially admitted participation in the killing but they claimed that more senior PAOCTF agents turned over Dacer and the driver to them.

It was also then that four suspects claimed that there were "orders" to their group that usually came directly from Estrada, bypassing *Viña, their immediate superior,* according to the source.

•In this case, an order was reportedly coursed through Dumlao, another PAOCTF officer, who contacted the group that snatched Dacer and his driver.

Ironically, Viña, who was initially tagged as the brains of the abduction and killing of Dacer and Corbito, was responsible for turning over the seven suspects to Mendoza during the Lenten Season.

The source said that Viña and Dumlao had earlier reported to Mendoza to discuss things related to the double murder case.

After the initial meeting with Mendoza, Viña then led a group of PNP operatives to the safe houses of his men and took them in custody one after the other.

A source said that Viña was scheduled to give his statement last night to the CIDG together with a junior officer of the PAOCTF.

The junior officer was said to be deeply involved in implementing the plan to abduct and kill Dacer and his driver Manuel Corbito.

Another person, who is said to be a vital witness to the abduction, was also taken during CIDG custody, bringing to eight the number of persons being investigated in connection with the double murder case.

All the seven suspects and the lone witness would be presented tomorrow to the media. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

This will be followed by the re-enactment of the abduction at the corner of South Super Highway and Zobel Roxas Street near the boundary of Manila and Makati City. The brutal killing of Dacer and Corbito in Indang, Cavite will also be reenacted.

The 13 who were charged by the NBI were SPO4 Marino G. Soberano, a native of Cavite but a member of the PAOCTF-Cebu City; SPO3 Mauro Torres of Indang Cavite; SPO3 Jose Escalante of Mataas na Lupa in Indang, Cavite; and Crisostomo M. Purification of Capitol Hills, Trece Martires.

Digo de Pedro, Renato Malabanan, William Lope, Jovencio Malabanan, Margarito Cueno, and a certain Rommel Rollan, all civilian agents of the PAOCTF-Cebu and all natives of Buna Lejos II in Indang, Cavite.

The two others, Alex Diloy and Jimmy Lopez were also included in the charge sheets. They are now in the custody of the NBI and may be used as state witness against the others.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo kept her silence about reports linking Estrada to the murder of Dacer.

When asked for her reaction at her weekly press conference, Ms Macapagal gave the floor to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Perez admitted that his department had not yet received any evidence concerning the supposed link of Estrada to the murder case.

But he said that he had discussed the Dacer case with PNP chief Mendoza last Saturday.

"Although we have gathered evidence linking certain personalities as mastermind to the killing of Bubby Dacer, he (Mendoza) is not yet ready to announce the names and he has not submitted the affidavits yet to me," Perez said.

Perez said that he did ask Mendoza "whether the person being linked and the mastermind is still in the Philippines."

"The response is, yes he is still in the Philippines. If he is moving around? Yes, *papasyal pasyal* (visiting sites) all over (the country)," he said.

## 'Daily Liar'

In a radio interview over dzEC yesterday, Estrada said he was unfamiliar with the police officers, who allegedly took orders from him to have Dacer killed.

"That's (the Philippine) Daily Liar, you know," he told the anchor in Filipino. "I don't even know the people whom I supposedly gave orders to, like this Glen Dumlao, Teofilio Viña . . . I only know Gen. Ping Lacson at the PAOCTF (Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force)."

"*Hindi lang tayo winawasak ng dyaryong ito, dinudurog pa tayo* (We're being demolished and pulverized by this paper)" he said. "Even earlier on we had information that they already had this demolition team because of the strong chances of our (senatorial Puwersa) candidates."

## Meeting Dacer at Palace

Estrada went on to deny allegations by his accusers like former National Security Adviser Jose Almonte that he and Dacer had a falling-out days before the abduction.

"In truth, Bubby Dacer is my *kumpare* even in our early years. I'm godfather to his youngest daughter (Ampy) first in her baptism and then in her wedding," he said.

"We were even in high spirits when Bubby Dacer went to Malacañang (a few days before the abduction). He even made some requests that I immediately granted, like the approval of a travel permit for a friend of his, a mayor," he said.

"We were even laughing because Ampy's husband is a nephew of (Caloocan City) Congressman (Luis) Baby Asistio."

## Mere speculation

In Cebu City, Lacson dismissed as mere speculation the INQUIRER report tagging Estrada as the brains behind the Dacer slay.

He said that the unnamed INQUIRER source might have just been spreading disinformation against the former President.

Lacson said he did not believe the allegations that Estrada was involved unless he read the sworn statements of the seven suspects now under the custody of the CIDG.

"I have not seen their statements. I have not seen their reports but there is too much disinformation, many speculations about this case. Let's just wait for the result of the investigation," Lacson told radio station dyLA.

But Lacson, a former PNP chief, admitted that Estrada used to give orders to PAOCTF members when he was still the President. The task force was under the Office of the President.

He said Estrada's orders to the PAOCTF were "not illegal orders" but were for "legitimate operations."

Lacson said that although he knew Chief Insp. Glen Dumlao of the PAOCTF he was not aware of any order from Estrada coursed through Dumlao.

In Davao City, senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara of the Puwersa ng Masa said the allegations linking Estrada to Dacer's killing and his indictment at the Sandiganbayan might adversely affect the opposition candidates' chances of winning in the elections.

Because most of the opposition's senatorial candidates had worked or were associated with Estrada, people might think that the cases filed against him would reflect on all of the Puwersa members, Angara said.

"I hope that the impact (of the cases on Puwersa candidates) would be less," Angara told reporters.

But Angara said Puwersa would still welcome Estrada in the Puwersa rallies.

Angara said the country should move on and discuss other substantive issues such as the economic slowdown. ***With reports from Donna Cueto, Jhunnex Napallacan , PDI Visayas Bureau and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

# They harass . . .

(From page A1)

tion and "even (Manila Archbishop Jaime) Cardinal Sin failed to convince Brother Mike to turn against me."

"That's why they're now doing this to Brother Mike," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday expressed concern over the inclusion of Velarde in the latest charge against Estrada.

The CBCP said the plunder charges against Velarde will have a profound effect on the country's predominantly Catholic population, which is still reeling from the Vatican-acknowledged report of priests committing rape against nuns in at least 26 countries.

"This causes us to reflect on what Christian leadership should be," said Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP media director. "Catholic leaders—whether they are clergy, religious or lay—should be good examples," he said.

"What's important is its (the filing of charges against Velarde) effect on the Catholic flock. Brother Mike is the leader of a very large Catholic charismatic organization," Coronel told the INQUIRER.

Coronel said the Ombudsman should investigate the charges against Velarde to ferret out the truth.

Velarde allegedly sold to the government parcels of private land at an "outrageously overpriced" sum in 1999 for the construction of a 7.5 kilometer road network called C-5 Link Expressway to connect the C-5 highway to the South Luzon Expressway.

Velarde could not be reached for comment but El Shaddai spokesperson Mel Robles said the spiritual leader "welcomes this development because it gives him a chance to air his side."

Robles said Velarde and other officials of the El Shaddai are confident the criminal charges against him and Estrada would be dismissed.

"Everything was above board," Robles said.

Estrada maintained the land deal was "above board" as it was even approved by then Public Works Secretary Gregorio Vigilar, a holdover from the Cabinet of former President Fidel V. Ramos.

"I retained him (Vigilar) because he is one of the very few from the Ramos Cabinet who could be trusted and whose integrity is unquestionable."

The complaint against Estrada and Velarde was filed by Ernesto B. Francisco, a lawyer formerly connected with the Accra Law firm of Estrada's executive secretary, Edgardo Angara.

Also named in the 67-page complaint were Vigilar, Velarde's son, Franklin; Ronaldo Zamora, former executive secretary of Estrada; and 14 others.

Francisco alleged they conspired to defraud the government of some P800 million for the right-of-way acquisitions for the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway project.

Francisco said the money was released to Velarde two and a half days after Estrada approved the purchase. He said there was reason to believe Velarde might have taken advantage of his closeness to Estrada to clinch the deal.

But Estrada said, "The lands were actually priced initially at P25,000 per square meter and Secretary Vigilar got two other well-known appraisers that's why it was reduced to P15,000 per square meter," he said.

Robles, the El Shaddai spokesperson, said negotiations for the land deal started during the administration of former President Fidel Ramos. "This was not just an instant thing. It took us two to three years to close the deal," he said.

"Everybody has the right to (accuse) but it's another thing to prove that in the court of law," he said.

## Politically motivated

In Victoria, Laguna, Elizabeth Toledo, chapter coordinator of the El Shaddai there, dismissed the charges against Velarde and Estrada as "grossly political."

Toledo said Velarde was implicated in the plunder charges because he openly endorsed and supported the Buhay party-list group, an organization promoting pro-life campaigns.

The endorsement, Toledo said, was made by Velarde during their Easter Sunday celebration in Luneta.

Toledo said that although there are plenty of candidates and parties seeking Velarde's support, "Buhay party-list is more favored than the rest."

"We fully support our spiritual leader. These allegations against him will not weaken our loyalty to him. He is clean of any corruption. Those charges are similar to the previous accusations hurled at him involving financial indiscretions but were finally proven to be baseless," Toledo said. ***Volt Contreras and Norman Bordadora, with a report from Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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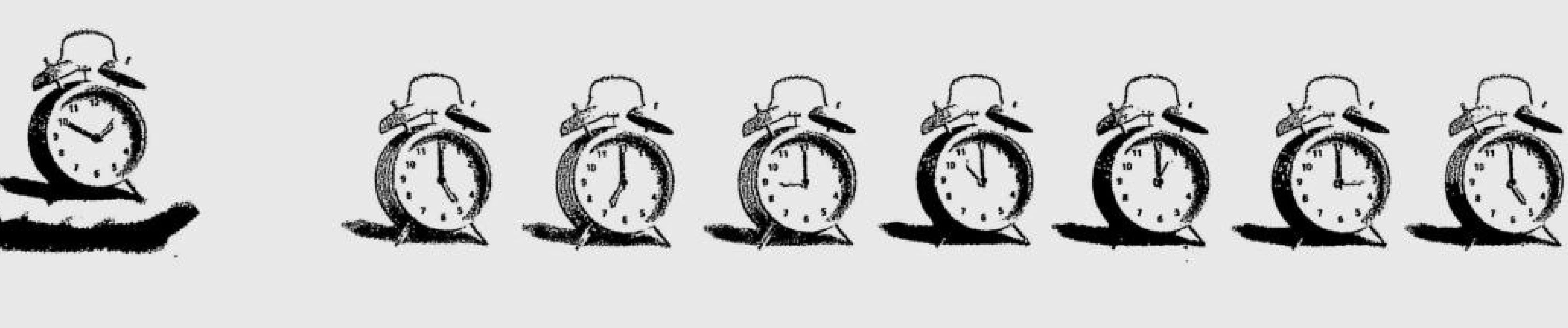

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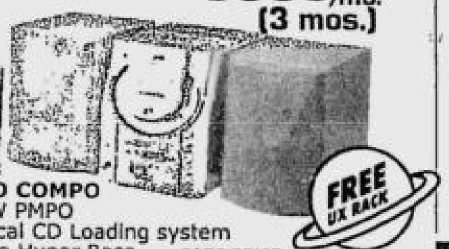

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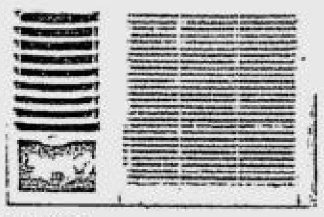

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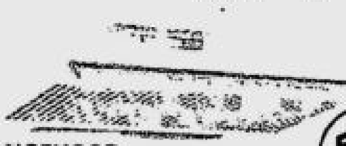

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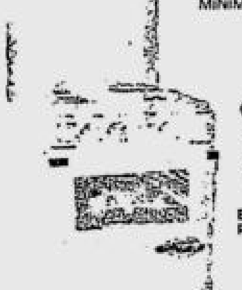

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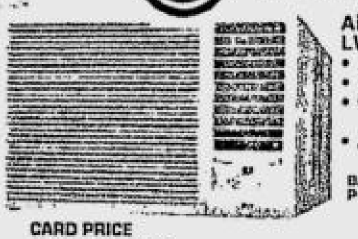

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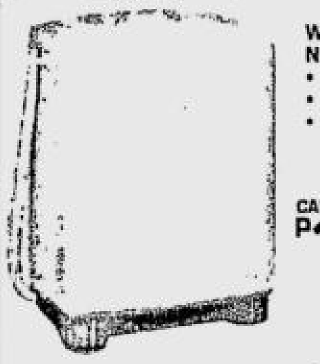

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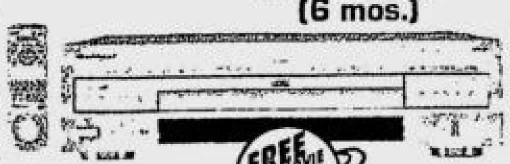

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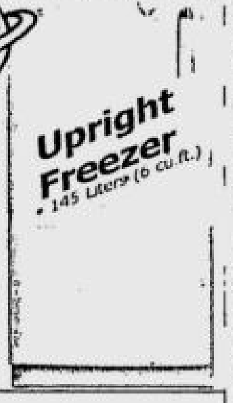

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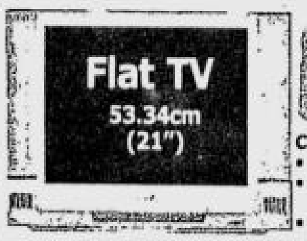

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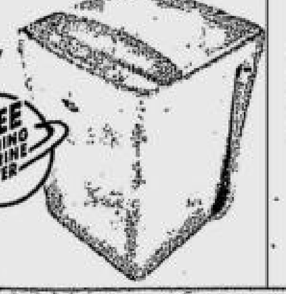

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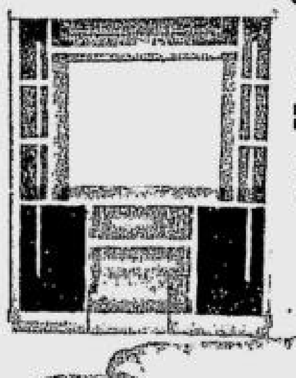

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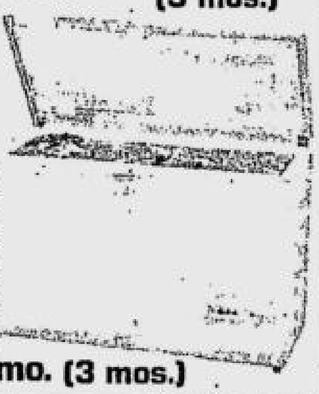

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# 'Tayo-tayo'

CLEAN LIVING

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

THE RECENT visit of outgoing International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch left too many unanswered questions: Did Samaranch visit the Philippines and the other several countries as well to make sure that his successor will be his ally so that last year's scandal in the IOC will not be reopened? Why were several past presidents of the Philippine Olympic Committee not invited to the POC-hosted breakfast meeting (with Samaranch) at the Westin Plaza Hotel on April 11? Were the incumbent POC officials afraid that Samaranch might be told the whole truth about the country's blatant violations of IOC rules? How come only sports officials sympathetic to IOC representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde and POC president Celso Dayrit were the only ones invited to the breakfast meeting? Wasn't this a clear case of *tayo-tayo* at the POC?

Shortly before the 81-year-old Samaranch made his third and "farewell" visit to the Philippines—a visit which I reported exclusively here as far back as last June—organizers announced that only presidents of the National Sports Associations would be invited to the breakfast meeting. These NSA presidents were even required to confirm if they were attending.

One NSA president, Go Teng Kok of the track and field association, did not confirm mainly because his name was not included in the list of guests. As expected, Go, who used to be an avid supporter of Dayrit, did not attend. On the other hand, I gathered that weightlifting head Rudy Sicat, a known diehard of Go Teng Kok, confirmed he was attending, but did not come because his name, just like Go Teng Kok, was not in the guest list.

One of those who graced the meeting even though his sports is not in the Olympic program was the powerful and influential Florencio Campomanes, former president of Fide (World Chess Federation). In contrast, some sports leaders whose sports are in the Olympics and who played a part in the Olympic movement were not invited. These included past POC presidents fiesty Cristy Ramos (of karate), who was ousted by Dayrit's group; and venerable Julian Malonso (of gymnastics), who met Samaranch in Moscow in 1980 when Samaranch was elected IOC president, succeeding Lord Killanin. A retired Spanish professor at Letran, Malonso knows Samaranch personally, who was Spain's former ambassador to Russia.

In the case of Cristy Ramos, sources said Ms Ramos had wanted to meet Samaranch and tell the IOC chief the true story behind her ouster. They added Ms Ramos was never given a chance to be completely heard, reportedly through the manipulation of Elizalde.

Retired Gen. Rene Cruz, a former POC president, attended the meeting, but absent were Nereo Andolong, Mike Keon and Gov. Jose Sering, who were all past POC heads.

Also, a planned demonstration by disheartened athletes and disgruntled officials was called off during Samaranch's visit upon the request of taekwondo's Robert Aventajado, who was appointed as POC chair, a position that is not even in the Olympic model.

Sources said Aventajado was named POC chair principally for political exigency because he was a ranking official in the past administration of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

# 'Sagupaan' starts tomorrow

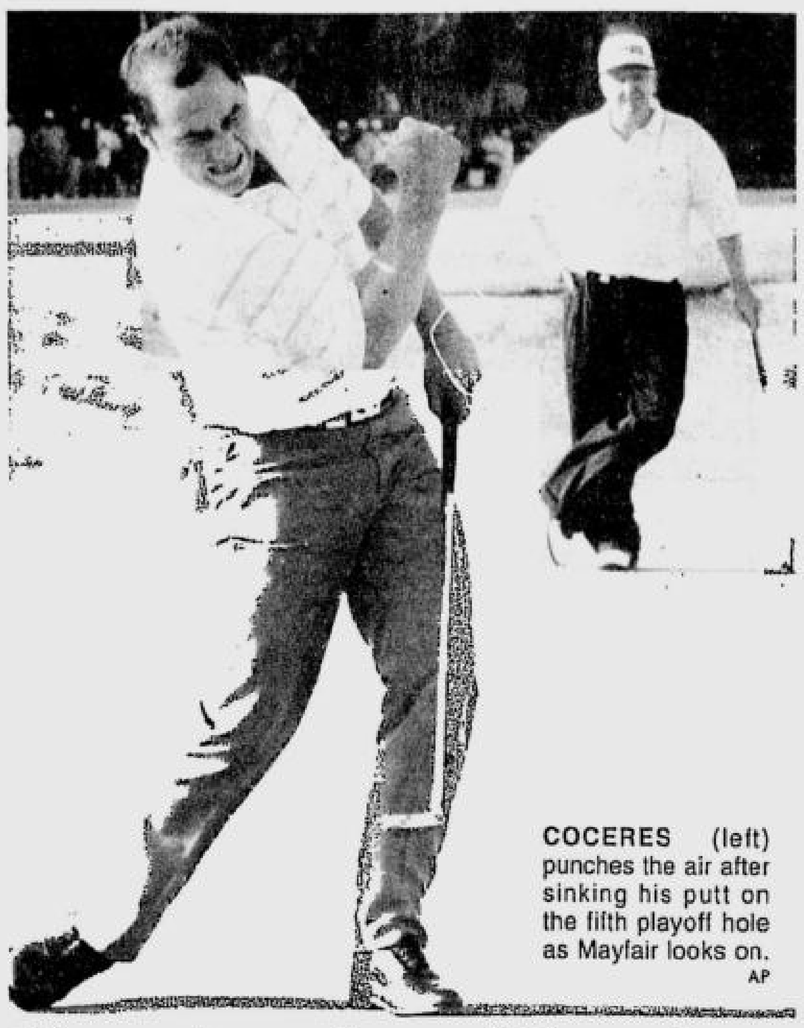
THE POPULAR tele-*sabong* show "Sagupaan" of cockfight idol Patrick Antonio starts its telecast tomorrow (April 19) at 11:30 p.m. and every Thursday thereafter on IBC-13.

During the show, Antonio, a two-time Cocker of the Year winner and holder of local and international derby titles, will share his tested and proven methods in training and conditioning of gamefowls.

"The training and conditioning methods that are revealed in the Sagupaan program are actually being implemented in my gamefarms in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, and Negros Occidental. I'm inviting all the *sabungeros* to watch and see the techniques themselves," Antonio said.

A segment of the show (co-sponsored by Novartis Animal Health) will feature preventive medicine, health maintenance and medication of gamefowls.

# Coceres turns back Mayfair in playoff, tops WorldCom



COCERES (left) punches the air after sinking his putt on the fifth playoff hole as Mayfair looks on. AP

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina—Jose Coceres became the first Argentine in 33 years to win on the PGA tour, defeating Billy Mayfair in a playoff Monday at the WorldCom Classic. Coceres missed a short par putt for victory on the 18th, then saved par twice—from a bunker on the 17th and a marsh alongside the closing lighthouse hole.

"It was always my thought that I was going to win this tournament, but not with such a high degree of difficulty," Coceres said through an interpreter after winning on the fifth playoff hole.

Coceres and Mayfair played two playoff holes Sunday before darkness forced a postponement until the next day.

The Argentine earned $630,000 and a two-year tour exemption. He has 60 days to join the tour.

After Mayfair missed a 6-footer for par the second time the pair played No. 18 on Monday, Coceres rolled in his 5-footer for par. He punched the air to the cheers of an unusually large crowd on a cool morning.

Coceres held up a sign to the stands—he handlettered it at 5:30 a.m. on a borrowed pillowcase—that said, "For my family and my friends and for all the Argentineans, a million thanks."

Mayfair, who won the 1998 Nissan Open over Tiger Woods in a playoff, had his chances, too.

He hit a 4-iron to about 15 feet (4.5 meters) on the par-3 17th, but missed the straight birdie putt. Coceres flubbed a chip from the bunker alongside the green to the fringe, then stuck the 12-footer to keep the playoff going one more hole.

Coceres hit a low liner that moved left the final time the two played the 18th, landing in a marshy hazard. But his chip was true, settling about 5 feet (1.5 meters) away. Mayfair was on the green in two about 25 feet (7.5 meters) away.

Mayfair, who said he was tentative with the putt on No. 17, blasted his attempt on the 18th about 6 feet (1.8 meters) beyond. He missed the par putt coming back.

Coceres looked ready to win on the duo's first hole. But his putt of less than three feet for par did not go in. Mayfair made bogey after missing a 6-footer.

Coceres became the first Argentine to win on the PGA Tour since Roberto De Vicenzo, best known for signing an incorrect Masters scorecard in 1968, won the Houston event a month after his Augusta error.

The 37-year-old Coceres doesn't expect to equal De Vicenzo's popularity in their golf-crazy homeland, but "I put my little two cents here or there, but this is going to change quite a bit, I am sure. It has changed my life 100 percent."

The 43-minute playoff capped a wild finish at Harbour Town Golf Links, where both Coceres and Mayfair had chances to win Sunday.

Mayfair had birdies on the fifth, sixth and eighth holes and was at 13 under, two shots ahead of a faltering Coceres. Then Mayfair drove out of bounds on the par-4 11th, leading to a double bogey.

Both players, though, made the critical shots down the stretch. Mayfair was the first to 11 under when he rolled in a 30-footer for birdie on No. 16. Then he saved par from a back bunker with a 15-foot (4.5-meter) putt on the 18th to stay there.

Coceres hit a wedge to 2 feet (0.6 meters) on the 16th hole for a birdie to catch Mayfair.

The two agreed not to move to the third playoff hole, the 18th, even though about 15 minutes of light remained.

It was the first Monday finish at Harbour Town since Doug Tewell beat Jerry Pate in a playoff in 1980. *AP*

# Garcia edges Pineda; Frankie's kin shines

DAVAO—Bayani Garcia nipped Peter Pineda on the third hole of a sudden-death playoff to capture Class A in the Mindanao eliminations of the NGAP National age-group golf championships at the Rancho Palos Verdes Country Club course here.

Garcia rallied from five shots down with an 81 to match the 168 aggregate of Pineda, who could only score an 86.

Allan John Miñoza, nephew of local pro star Frankie, joined the qualifiers when he scored a 76 for 163, beating Thomas Escano by five in this 36-hole event conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

The other winners were Mary Kim Hong (Class A) and Lovelyn Guioguio (Class B) in the girls division, Faizal Samanudi in boys Class C and Miggy Madregallejo in the unisex 10-under Class D.

The winners received trophies from Palos Verdes general manager Joe Marfori, NGAP director for Mindanao Tony Garcia and Iggy Claveeilla, tournament director

The top finishers will join early qualifiers from the Visayas and Luzon eliminations and the coming Metro Manila leg at Wack Wack in the national finals set at the Eagle Ridge Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

# Orchard strike looms

THE EMPLOYEES union of the Orchard Golf and Country Club has filed a notice of strike with the National Labor Relations Commission following a deadlock in its Collective Bargaining Agreement talks with the management.

Some 165 members of the PMOGCC-OLALIA-KMU union filed the notice of strike on March 12 though settlement talks are still being held at the NCMB Central Office.

This is the first time that Orchard has had to entertain a CBA with its employees after sustaining net losses of P45 and P31 million, respectively, in 1998 and 1999.

The course, located in Dasmariñas, Cavite, managed to earn over P400,000 last year, emboldening the union to seek improved wages and benefits.

If the strike pushes through, it will also affect about 800 persons (including caddies, contractual and regular employees) and the 2,700 club members.

Union and management representatives met again on the bargaining table on Thursday to iron out kinks in the CBA.

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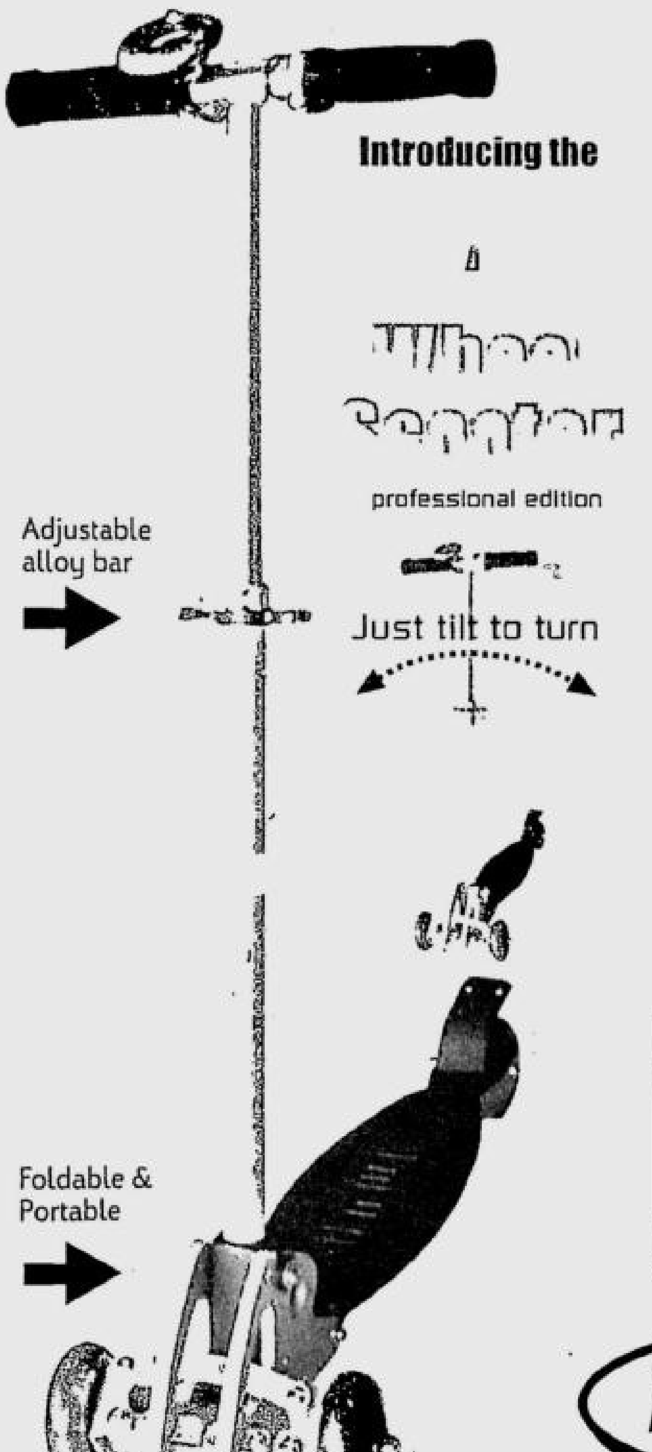

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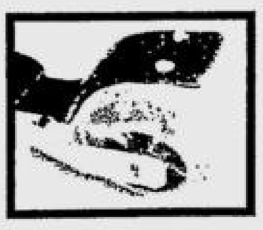

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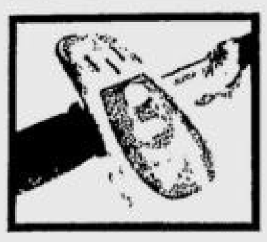

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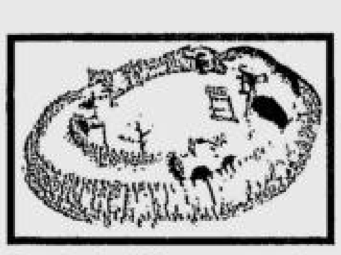

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# Korea runner halts Kenyans

BOSTON—The Kenyans aren't finished winning the Boston Marathon. They're just taking home titles in the distaff division now.

Catherine Ndereba won her second consecutive Boston race on Monday, helping her homeland avoid a shutout after South Korean Lee Bong-ju ended Kenya's streak of 10 consecutive men's victories.

"I knew I was running alone against many Kenyans, but the marathon is competing by yourself," said Lee, who finished in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 43 seconds.

Lee pulled away from Ecuador's Silvio Guerra in the 25th mile to win by 24 seconds and become the first non-Kenyan to win since Italy's Gelindo Bordin in 1990. Lee is the first Korean to win since the Korean War; Yun Bok-suh won in 1947, and Kee Yong-ham in 1950.

The United States won 10 consecutive Boston Marathons from 1916-25, though the 1918 race was a relay because of World War I.

The Kenyans were hoping for an unprecedented 11th straight win, but the best they have was Joshua Chelang'a, who finished 46 seconds behind the winner in third.

Among those who got the crowd's attention was diminutive Katie Lynch.

As her purple sneakers crossed the finish line—a full 26.2 feet (7.86 meters) from the start—tears trickled down her face and the crowd erupted in cheers.

"I was nervous like any other marathoner, but it was a good nervous energy," said Lynch, who at 26 weighs only 35 pounds (16 kilograms) and is 2-foot-4 (71 centimeters) tall. *AP*

## PEÑA DOUBTFUL STARTER

# SMB, Pop Cola eye semis seats

**GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)**
5:15 p.m.—San Miguel vs Red Bull
7:30 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Alaska

DORIAN Peña will suit up for San Miguel Beer tonight, but whether he can play remains to be seen when the Beermen battle Batang Red Bull in the PBA All-Filipino Cup quarterfinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

SMB coach Jong Uichico said Peña, a robust 6-foot-7 slotman from the Metropolitan Basketball Association, is nursing an injured shin and is currently under therapy.

"He's on day-to-day basis," said Uichico of Peña's condition.

So, it means that fans waiting to see Peña playing alongside Danny Ildefonso and another injured Beerman Danny Seigle may have to wait depending on everybody's health.

Uichico added: "We are really undermanned right now. There are few guys who can't play and we don't want to force them to play and risk bigger injuries."

That's easy to say because the Beermen got one more crack at the semifinals if they lose today, having earned the twice-to-beat incentive.

But things might change if the Thunder win tonight, which is imminent considering that Mick Pennisi is returning to action and the Beermen are hurting.

Seigle is also a doubtful starter although he joined practice yesterday following his recovery from back spasm. Boybits Victoria is out for the conference, while Dwight Lago has to attend to his sick father in the United States.

Barangay Ginebra and Mobiline set an alarming trend by winning last Sunday over twice-to-beat teams Shell Velocity and Purefoods, respectively.

Pop Cola and Alaska Milk collide in the other quarterfinal match with the Panthers enjoying twice-to-beat advantage.

SEIGLE

# Race showdown set April 29

THE MUCH-AWAITED showdown between champion horses Wind Blown and Silver Story unfolds on April 29 during the PCSO First Gentleman Silver Cup at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

The 2,000-meter (1-1/4 mile) track encounter carries a total prize pot of P1.6 million, with a cool P1 million going to the winner.

PCSO chairperson Ma. Livia "Honey Girl" S. de Leon said yesterday that no less than First Gentleman Jose Miguel T. Arroyo, the event's honoree, has been invited to grace the occasion and award the coveted PCSO Silver Cup to the owner of the winning entry.

"We are indeed honored to acknowledge the expected presence of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to this affair," said PCSO general manager Virgilio "Ver" R. Angelo.

Heading the hunt for the first million peso horse race of the year is recent PCSO President Gold Cup winner Wind Blown, businessman Herminio Esguerra's prized 4-year-old colt who will attempt to score an unprecedented Gold Cup-Silver Cup double.

Standing in Wind Blown's way is Patrick Uy's 3-year-old track sensation Silver Story, the heavy favorite for this year's Triple Crown series who will attempt to avenge his previous defeat to Wind Blown in their first and only meeting last year.

Adding further excitement to the much-awaited clash of champions is the entry of defending Silver Cup champion and back-to-back winner Streets of Gold. A victory for the 6-year-old champion race mare will also catapult her to the top of the all-time money earning list.

Others who will try to steal the show are last year's champion older horse Gold Edition, Materiales Fuertes, High Roller, Greely Good, Sweet Lover and Hammerhead.

**SUBIC FESTIVAL.** The participants in the Asian Touring Car Championships (left photo) and Asian Formula 2000 are shown in action during the opening rounds of the Asian Festival of Speed at the Subic International Raceway recently. The events were hosted by Sports Values Inc. (Phils.)

# D. Lerio enters finals

LA LISA, Cuba—Danilo Lerio of Team Caltex Philippines made it to the finals of the lightflyweight division Sunday evening but older brother Arlan failed and settled for the bantamweight bronze in the 7th Roberto Balado Cup Boxing Tournament at the La Vereda Plaza here.

Danilo posted a convincing 4-1 victory over Cuba's Barbaro Gonzales to earn a shot at the gold, while Arlan was beaten by local boy Lester Dias 1-4 at the start of the semifinal round.

Danilo was in full control right from the start and never got into trouble in earning a chance to surpass his bronze-medal finish in the same event last year. He takes a rest Monday and will shoot for the gold Tuesday.

In contrast, Arlan had a difficult time chasing Diaz around the ring after the Cuban opted to dance the time away in the last two rounds after hitting the Filipino twice early in the fight. Arlan had scoring punches in the last two rounds but still fell short of the judges' nods.

# RP 5 joining university meet

THE PHILIPPINE men's team will be a guest entry in the 2nd Asian Universities Basketball Championship slated in Manila on May 21-26.

At least six powerhouse universities, including National Inter-Collegiate titlist St. Francis of Assisi, are expected to participate in the event to be hosted by the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Others in the roster are China's Beijing Industrial College, Chinese-Taipei's Physical Education College and South Korea's Choonang University, which placed third in the 1st Bert Lina-Jam Mercado Cup last month.

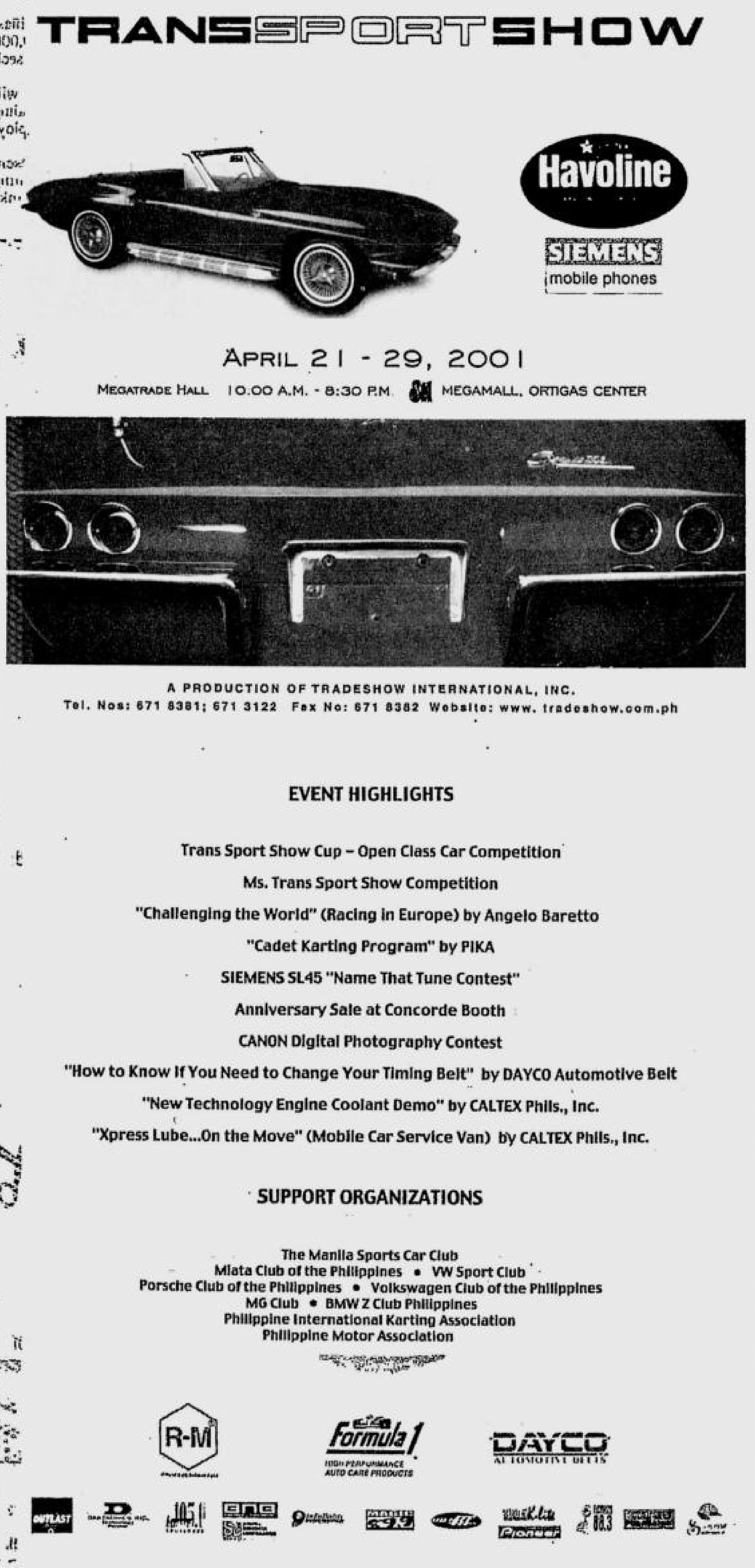
Also invited were the Japan collegiate titlist and another champion university from a Southeast Asian country.

BAP secretary general Graham Lim, the basketball committee chair of the Asian Universities Sports Federation, said the presence of the RP Team would lend prestige and glamour to the tournament to be held at either the Ninoy Aquino Stadium or the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. *Roy Luarca*

# Bacoor cagefest

TWELVE senior teams and six junior squads are competing in the 2nd Sorrento 2 Homeowners Association Inc. (S2HAI) basketball tournament which reels off on April 22 at the newly renovated court in Barangay Habay, Bacoor, Cavite.

Mayor Jessie B. Castillo and other local officials will grace the opening ceremonies.



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"How to Know If You Need to Change Your Timing Belt" by DAYCO Automotive Belt
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# SPORTS

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# Shark improves to 5-0

**GAMES TOMORROW: (Makati Coliseum)**
3:30 p.m.—GIV Soap vs Welcoat Paints
5:30 p.m.—Pharmaquick vs Ana Freezer

BY DENNIS EROA

LEADER Shark Energy Drink bared its razor-sharp teeth early to subdue Hapee Toothpaste, 62-55, and raise its record to 5-0 last night in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Power Boosters made the Sparklers pay dearly for using the zone defense from start to finish. Chester Tolomia, Rolly Basilides and Ken Gumpenberger scored at will as Shark started to pull away in the second quarter.

"We came prepared against Hapee. I have to shuffle my shooters because of the zone," said Shark coach Leo Austria.

The Sparklers actually threatened at 50-53, but Gumpenberger hit a triple in a 10-0 run which put the outcome beyond doubt.

With the win, Shark assured itself of a seat in the quarterfinals.

Earlier, Montaña leaned on the fiery shows of Francis Zamora and Mel Latoreno in the fourth quarter to whip Ateneo-Pioneer, 64-59.

Zamora towered in the shaded lane, while Latoreno sank two crucial gift shots off a deliberate foul by Andrew Cruz, 63-55, 23 seconds remaining.

The game wasn't lacking in fireworks, though. Ateneo's Wesley Gonzales was ejected for a punching foul on Aris Dimaunahan, 7:28 left in the fourth period, while Montaña mentor Leo Isaac was slapped a technical foul for excessive complaining two minutes later and the Jewels ahead, 59-40.

First game:

**MONTAÑA 64**—David 12, Latoreno 12, Gottenbos 11, Dimaunahan 10, Zamora 8, Lao 6, Torrente 5.

**ATENEO-PIONEER 59**—Sison 23, Villanueva 10, Gonzalez 8, Bugia 6, Tan Chi 5, Cruz 4, Alvarez 3, Antonio 0, Ferrer 0, Victoria 0.

Quarters: 14-18, 39-23, 54-33, 64-59.

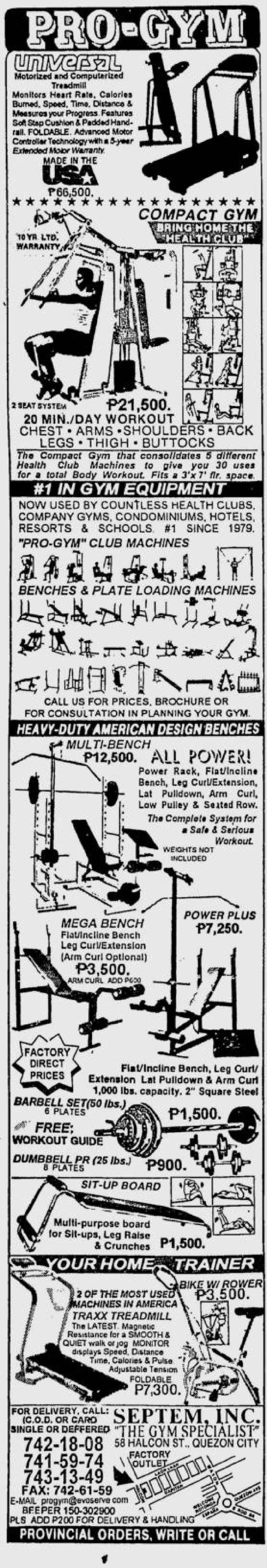
Second game:

**SHARK 62**—Tolomia 15, Malabanan 10, Castro 8, Basilides 8, Gumpenberger 8, Sotto 5, Caceres 3, Robinson 3, Ybañez 2, Ortega 0, Garcia 0, Rodriguez 0.

**HAPEE 55**—Saquilayan 12, Espiritu 10, Bajar 7, Gelig 7, Mercado 6, Binuya 5, Baguio 2, Sison 2, Rivera 2, Salangsang 2, Norrdell 0.

Quarters: 15-17, 30-22, 50-38, 62-55.

SHARK'S Michael Robinson (right) defies the defense put up by Francis Mercado and Ryan Dy of Hapee Toothpaste. ROMY HOMILLADA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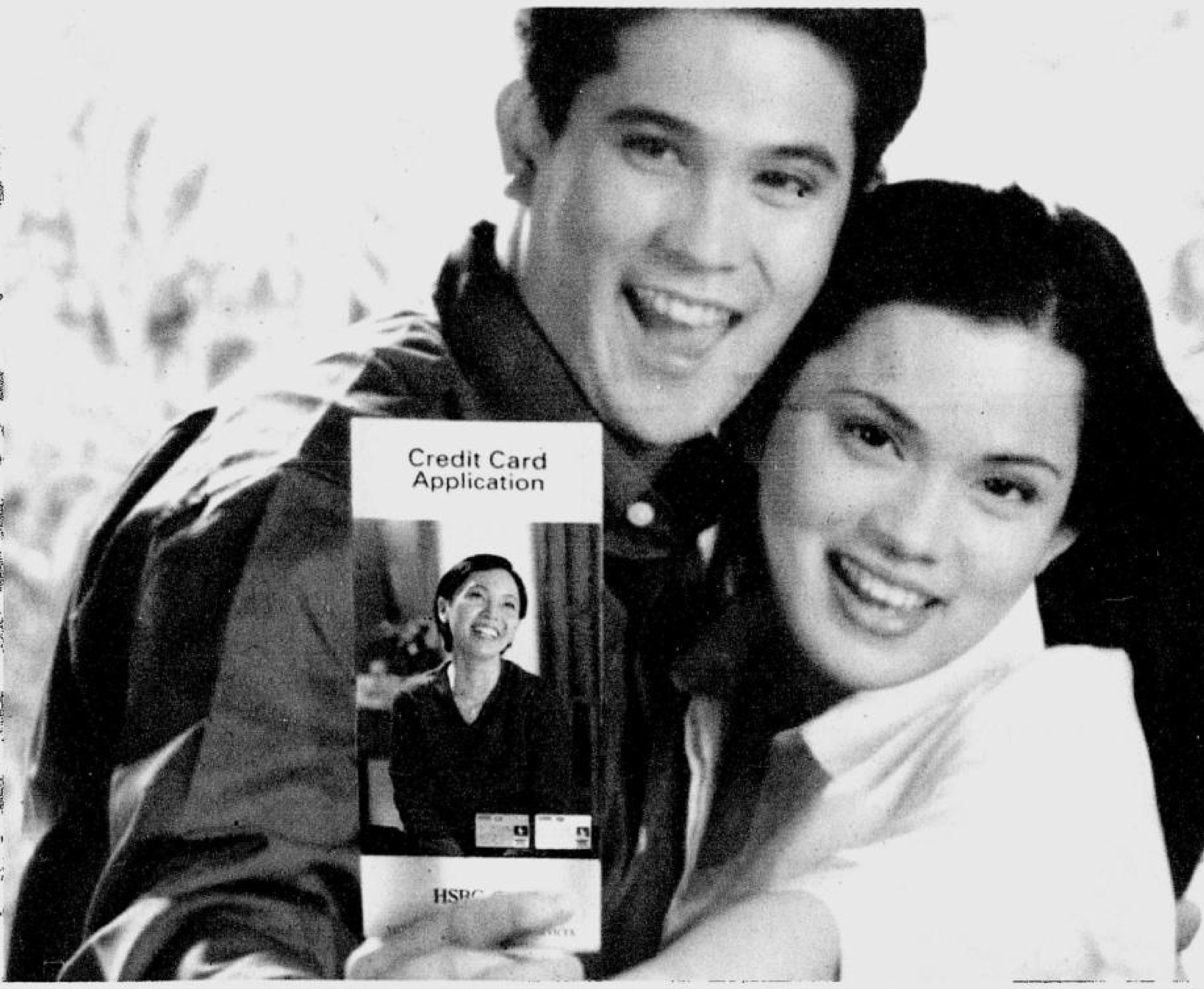

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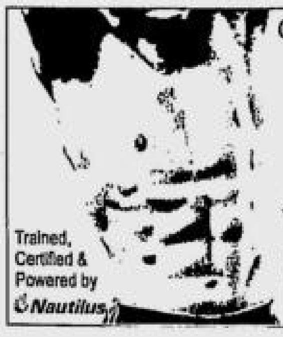
Man accosted for urinating in street yields P2M shabu A26
Bare Eye: Boxing was too sweet in Cebu A26

# METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor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## 1 VICTIM IDENTIFIED BY MOM

# 3 youths beheaded in QC

By Philip C. Tubeza

**"THIS is not the work of humans. How could they do this to my son?"**

Elenor W. Azana wept as she held the black underwear of her 16-year-old son Kenny.

Azana, of 9 Kalayaan C, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, positively identified one of the three headless youths found on Mindanao Avenue in Quezon City Monday night as her son Kenny.

"This is so painful," the mother said. "We don't even know where his head is. Where are we going to start looking?"

She said Kenny had just graduated from the New Era public high school on April 4. He left their house Tuesday last week to get his report card, she said. He never came back.

She identified her son through his underwear and birthmarks on his body.

"We've been looking for him since Tuesday last week," she said.

Kenny and two other headless young men were found around 8:30 p.m. on Mindanao Avenue near the entrance of Cresta Verde Subdivision. The other two victims remained unidentified as of yesterday afternoon, said Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza, chief of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit homicide section.

Jaraza described one of them as 18-20 years old, dark complexioned, 5-foot-3, and wearing a black *sando* with "Zulueta" written on the back, black shorts with a leather belt, and black underwear. Tattooed on the right side of his body were the name "Jun" and a round explosive with the number 8, Jaraza said.

The other body belonged to someone aged 12-15, 5-foot-5, slim, and barefooted. Kenny and the youngest victim were both found naked, Jaraza said.

A blue underwear and fatigue shorts were found near the youngest victim's body.

The three bodies bore ligature marks near their collarbones, according to the report of the Scene of the Crime Operations (Soco) team.

Jaraza said a motorist noticed the three headless bodies sprawled along the highway Monday night.

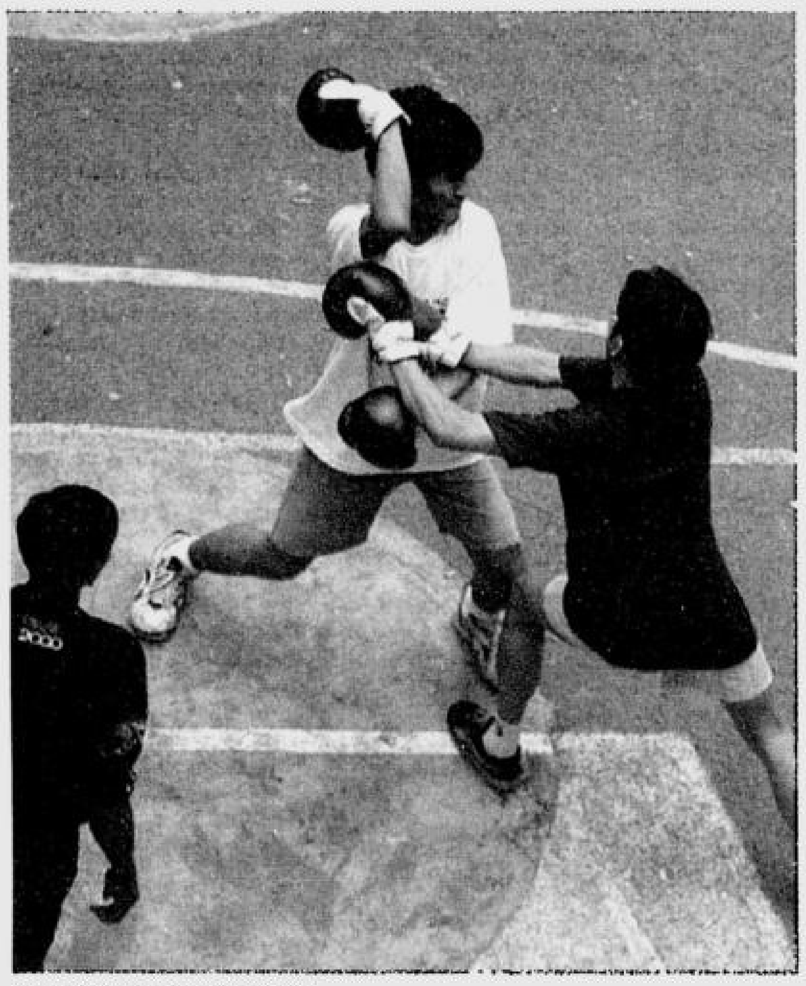
The bodies were later taken to the Philippine National Crime Laboratory for autopsy. At about 10 a.m. yesterday, Azana and her relatives positively identified Kenny's body at the morgue.

Azana said two of her son's classmates last saw him alive at the Peralta computer store at the corner of Tandang Sora and Commonwealth Avenue.

They allegedly asked him to go with them but Kenny decided to stay and play computer games.

Azana said no other member of Kenny's group of friends was missing.

But she said that on the night of Kenny's graduation, some Culiat students allegedly gave him dirty looks while he was alone at the Peralta computer store. ***With a report from Sharon C. Jaylo***



**RAGING GAYS**

Gay inmates of the Quezon City jail flail away at each other in a boxing match at the jail's basketball court. Jail authorities said the sparring was "just for fun."

EDWIN BACASMAS

# Cell phone snatchers slam into truck

By Jerome Aning

TWO suspected cell phone snatchers are in critical condition after their motorcycle rammed into a parked cargo truck in Sampaloc, Manila while escaping after snatching another phone just before dawn yesterday.

Suspects Norman Cunanan and Antonio Cabal, of Batangas Street in Tondo, Manila, are being treated at the Philippine Orthopedic Center in Quezon City for multiple bone fractures and head injuries, police said.

SPO1 Renato Marco of the Western Police District Station 4, said Cunanan and Cabal snatched the cell phone of Grace Hemino at about 12:30 a.m. on a dark portion of Dapitan Street.

Hemino, 23, a student and a resident of 1243 Don Quixote St., Sampaloc, was on her way home when the suspects, who were on board a motorcycle (TA-4248), stopped beside her.

One of the suspects allegedly snatched her cell phone and the motorcycle sped away as she screamed for help.

But the suspects did not notice a cargo truck parked on the shoulder of Dapitan and rammed into it. The impact threw them in the air.

Passersby brought Cunanan and Cabal to the hospital. But they face arrest and robbery charges after they are discharged from the hospital. ***With Jeusa Raflores and Carina Roncesvalles***

# Carnap suspect shot in gunfight

By Philip C. Tubeza

A SUSPECTED car thief was yesterday wounded during a gun battle with Quezon City policemen who foiled his attempt to steal a brand-new Honda CRV.

But the two companions of suspect Angelito Canlas, 21, managed to escape.

Canlas, of Kaingin Road Barangay Balingasa, Quezon City, is now under guard at a Quezon City hospital after police arrested him following the firefight at the corner of Araneta Avenue and Caliraya Street, said investigator PO1 Alexander Jimenez.

Canlas and his two unidentified companions tried to steal the Honda CRV driven by Winfredo Merin, 29, of 245 Banaue St., Quezon City, but alert policemen caught up with them, Jimenez said.

He said Merin had parked his car at the corner of Araneta and Caliraya about 5:30 a.m. yesterday to eat breakfast at a nearby eatery.

While Merin was eating, a red Toyota Tamaraw suddenly stopped in front of the eatery. Three armed men, one of whom was Canlas, alighted from the vehicle, pointed their guns at Merin and asked for his car keys, Jimenez said.

But someone called up the nearby Police Community Precinct 3 of the Galas police station, and SPO2 Gonzalo Dumlao and PO1 Regino Valiente immediately responded.

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# Guard kills fellow guard

A SECURITY guard yesterday morning was killed by another guard in a gun duel in Muntinlupa City after the latter accused the former of cheating in his time card.

Police said Leonardo Cano, 41, a resident of Block 3, Lot 51, Park Homes Subdivision, Barangay Tunasan, Muntinlupa City and an employee of the Robo Guard security agency, was declared dead on arrival at the Muntinlupa Medical Center.

Cano sustained three gunshot wounds from a .38 caliber revolver, police said.

The suspect was identified as Pedro Espaldon 44, a resident of Purok 1, Block 6, Barangay Bayanan, Muntinlupa City and also a member of the Robo Guard security agency.

Both Cano and Espaldon were assigned to the Country Homes subdivision in Barangay Tunasan, police said.

Investigators PO2 Felix Paor and PO2 Rolando Estipen of the Muntinlupa police homicide section said Espaldon and Cano were manning their posts when, at around 7 a.m., Espaldon accused Cano of tardiness and cheating in his time card.

An angry Espaldon then pulled out his service .38 pistol, fired at Cano and escaped, police said.

Police were still looking for the suspect as of yesterday. *Alcuin Papa, with Jojo Arazas, Roy Jolito*

# Butcher slays cousin's friend

A BUTCHER yesterday stabbed dead an 18-year-old man who was reportedly having a relationship with the butcher's cousin, in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Junryl Arceno, of 866 Oroquieta St., Sta. Cruz, died from a stab wound in the nape allegedly inflicted by butcher Joel Guid, 25.

Arceno was pronounced dead on arrival at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Western Police District investigator SPO1 Virgo Villareal said that at about 10 p.m. Monday, Guid, a butcher at the Aranque public market, and an unidentified male relative argued with Arceno about his relationship with their female cousin.

Guid and the relative did not approve of their cousin's dalliance with Arceno, police said.

During the argument, Guid allegedly punched Arceno's face. Neighbors, however, managed to pacify the two men.

But at about 4 a.m. yesterday, Guid and the unidentified man waylaid Arceno in an alley beside his house while he was about to take a bath outdoors.

Police said the unidentified relative held Arceno as Guid allegedly stabbed him with a dagger in the nape.

The suspects fled with the weapon, police said. *Jerome Aning, with JP Andaquig and Myla Torres*

# Wayward jeepney bumps 2

By Christian V. Esguerra

JEEPNEY driver Edwin Patolot was on his way to the Caloocan police headquarters to report a vehicular accident that involved his jeepney and a Nissan Patrol when he apparently lost control of his vehicle again and hit a woman and a man.

Doctors at the Philippine National Railway Hospital as of yesterday still could not revive Merlyn Lavido, 42, of 167 Acab St. in Caloocan after Patolot's jeepney hit her in the back at 11:10 a.m. on Monday, said PO3 Jose Adducul of the Caloocan Traffic Management Group.

Telesforo Malana, 20, of 461-B Concha St., Tondo, Manila, was also injured in the right leg, Adducul added.

Investigation showed that Lavido and Malana were walking in front of the Caloocan Police headquarters on Samson Road when the jeepney driven by Patolot, 35, of 1024 Interior 8, Manzano St., Maypajo, Caloocan, rammed into a peanut stand and hit Lavido and Malana in the process.

Adducul said the jeepney was about to turn right toward the police headquarters when it suddenly lost its brakes. The driver steered the jeepney toward the nearby peanut stand apparently to stop the vehicle, he added.

Earlier, the jeepney hit the rear bumper of the Nissan Patrol driven by Jurgen Gonzales. Patolot and Gonzales were about to report the accident to police when the jeepney hit Lavido and Malana.

# Man accosted for urinating in street yields ₱2M shabu

By Alcuin Papa

MAKATI police yesterday seized about two kilos of high grade shabu with a street value of more than P2 million from a suspected member of the Chinese Triad drug group.

Police said they found the shabu on Chinese national Yan Gin, 28, after they accosted him for urinating in the street.

Senior Insp. Danilo Javier, chief of the Makati Police Precinct 9, said his station received information that a transaction involving illegal drugs would occur on Eduque Street in Barangay Poblacion, Makati City. He said he sent his men on a stakeout.

Javier's men spotted Yan, who was carrying a green travelling bag and acting suspiciously. His description matched the information given to police.

Yan, who refused to give his local address to investigators, was urinating on Eduque Street when Javier's man accosted him for violating a city ordinance prohibiting urinating in public.

Yan tried to escape, but was cornered by the policemen who found the shabu in the bag he was carrying. He was brought to the Makati City police headquarters.

The Makati City police chief, Senior Supt. Jovito Gutierrez, said Yan could be a member of the drug group Chinese 14-K.

Yan is detained at the Makati City Jail. He could face the death penalty for violation of Republic Act No. 6425 or the Illegal Drugs Act.

# Boxing was too sweet in Cebu

**Bare Eye**

*Recah Trinidad*

IF you get belted and see three fighters in a haze, go after the one in the middle.

That's what ruined me—going after the other two guys.

That was the unsolicited advice received by George Plimpton, a popular American writer, a few days before his fight—actually a three-round exhibition—with the great Archie Moore, among the few to have properly instructed Muhammad Ali on the finer points of boxing.

There was another memorable note, actually a parody of the type of columns in the inimitable style of the legendary Jimmy Cannon: "Your name is George Plimpton. You have had an appointment with Archie Moore. Your head is now a concert hall where Chinese music will never stop playing."

Of course, you would like to know how that Moore-Plimpton bout ended.

Plimpton got his nose broken and bloodied, the third and final round was cut short by something like a minute. But the referee, the editor of Sports Illustrated, proceeded to raise the hands of both combatants to signal a draw.

Plimpton, a fabled participatory journalist, did not end up in a hospital and instead went on to write a classic on that non-fight of the century for Sports Illustrated.

* * *

**No need to ask Andy Tabanas how many guys he saw before him after he got tagged with a scalpel-sharp right cross to the chin in the 11th round out there at the Madison Garden over the weekend.**

**Reports reaching Manila the other day said Tabanas, who was brought out on a stretcher, started to move his eyes as he was rushed to the hospital.**

**I had no way of confirming if Tabanas, a humble and lovable glory seeker, ever recovered his senses after suffering that savage setback. I spent a bothered night Monday but was greatly relieved upon learning through a report from Today's Nick Giongco, a faithful and able fight chronicler, that our luckless countryman had not lapsed into a coma.**

**Tabanas, the morning after his fifth unsuccessful try at a world crown, slipped out of the St. Vincent's Hospital in New York, against medical advice, Giongco reported.**

**As a final note, it was stated that Tabanas, 33, who was way ahead in the cards of two judges (the third official saw it as a draw) when he was floored by Puerto Rico's Nelson Dieppa, could have reached the dead-end of his career with that loss.**

* * *

Had Tabanas survived until the 12th round there was a strong likelihood he would have come home with the WBO junior flyweight crown. Not exactly as significant as, say, a WBC or WBA title. But as no Filipino is in possession of a legit world crown—both Manny Pacquiao and Gerry Peñalosa own only the "international" WBC titles in the junior featherweight and super flyweight divisions—Tabanas would have finally tasted what he had longed for: a bit a glory.

Naturally, another guy greatly disappointed by the shocking stoppage suffered by Tabanas was sportsman Tony Aldeguer of Cebu. Aldeguer swore that Tabanas, a product of his stable, appeared in razor-sharp form during his sparring with the likes of Joma Gamboa and Rodel Mayol.

Yes, Rodel Mayol. In case you've not heard enough of this young mini-flyweight (105 pounds), he's the latest sensation from the Aldeguer stable.

In his last outing, Mayol dropped and stopped Korean Kim Jae Ho with a left blow to the head in less than two minutes — 106 seconds to be exact.

In that same card put up by Aldeguer at the famous Waterfront Hotel, RP superlightweight champion Dindo Castanares, another Aldeguer protege, stopped a slow, muscular Thai visitor in the second round.

* * *

**You see, Tony Aldeguer had graciously invited me to be at ringside for the Mayol fight. I felt flattered when he said he wanted me to tell him if Mayol had the makings of a world champ.**

**Well, I had the luck to have watched the twin knockouts scored by the two Cebuano sensations. I, however, refused to be excited like the ringside broadcasters, our grizzled fight supervisors, and a few local scribes at ringside.**

**Mayol and Castanares were visibly overmatched. And this definitely was not the fault of Tony Aldeguer.**

**Actually, I had also heard raving comments, mainly over Mayol, from friends and neighbors who saw the short bouts on television.**

**Without trying to sound rude, I readily told them they should not get carried away.**

**Why? I was asked. Because there's only one way you can genuinely determine the quality and capacity of a fighter. He has got to be tested by a worthy and capable foe.**

**In trying to please Tony Aldeguer and the Cebu fight crowd, the matchmakers have obviously overcooked their main dishes.**

**Fortunately, Tony Aldguer has himself refused to bite.**

**"I still have to know how really tough Rodel is," Aldeguer told local interviewers after the celebrated bouts.**

**Aldeguer said he plans to next pit his boy against a black American or a Mexican, even a Mexican champ. He said he hopes his fighters, mainly Mayol and Castanares, would next be made to fight in the undercard of either Peñalosa or Pacquiao in Manila. There would be no available sweeteners.**

# Atienza: Get those vandals

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday ordered the Western Police District to apprehend "political hooligans" who he said destroyed or vandalized street lamps and plant pots along major city roads that his office had beautified.

Engineer Ernesto Cuyugan, the city electrician, recently reported to Atienza that organized "political hooligans" destroyed lamps on major streets such Radial Road 10 from Zaragoza to Moriones, bridges such as Del Pan, and A.H. Lacson Street. The unidentified culprits had thrown stones at the lamps.

Plant pots adorning the traffic islands of other city streets and bridges have been smashed. Cuyugan said.

"This is obviously an attempt to sabotage the 'Buhayin ang Maynila' urban renewal program of the city government," Atienza said in a press statement. "Those responsible for these acts of vandalism want to make it appear that the city is dirty and chaotic, hoping that I would be blamed."

His spokesperson, Armand Sebastian, said the destruction of the lamps and pots was "definitely politically motivated," although he would not identify those responsible.

Atienza has been boasting to his opponents in the mayoral race that during his term, City Hall paved a total of 46 kilometers of city streets and national roads and lighted busy streets such as Taft and Rizal avenues. *With reports from Jeusa Raflores and Carina Roncesvalles*

# 14 nabbed in 'sakla' raid

POLICE rounded up 14 people, including an alleged campaign leader of a Muntinlupa mayoral candidate and a barangay *tanod*, on Maundy Thursday for playing the illegal game *sakla*.

But shortly after the lawmen arrested Epifanio Salvador, barangay chair of Purok 5, Sucat, Muntinlupa City, and Ronald Galman, barangay *tanod* of Purok 3, Sucat, the two men were able to escape on board an ambulance.

Salvador is said to be a campaign leader of mayoral candidate Bess Aguilar-Masangkay.

A police source told the INQUIRER that when the lawmen were preparing the charge sheets for the suspects' inquest, a Muntinlipa congressional candidate called the National Capital Region Police Office to arrange the release of Salvador and Galman.

The source claimed the call led to the supposed escape.

PO3 Melchor Pornia and PO1 Marcelo Galang said lawmen from the NCRPO's Regional Mobile Group in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig arrested the suspects at about 1 a.m. on Dama de Noche Street at Doña Rosario Subdivision, Muntinlupa City.

Police seized sakla playing cards, a playing board and more than P2,300 in bets. *Alcuin Papa*

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JUST when pagers seem obsolete in this day and age, THINK AGAIN! Imagine a pager receiving messages from all over the world... or retrieving email or fax mail. All these services are possible with the new INFOPLUS.

INFOPLUS Value-Added Messaging redefines the concept of how a message service provider can be a vital link in today's saturated world of multi-media communications. With its birth, INFOPLUS promises new, sophisticated yet affordable messaging possibilities where paging is just one option. This is so because INFOPLUS links primary communication tools to provide backup access for greater reliability.

With value-added services as its strongest edge, INFOPLUS offers a myriad of messaging services that are not just operator-dependent but now even computer-assisted. There's the E-plus feature that makes e-messaging possible. With this facility, message senders can forward up to 100-character message to a subscriber via the Infoplus website: www.infopage.com.ph. The subscriber is alerted via his pager, which can also display up to 100 characters of that message. He is also given his own e-mail address. With FAXPLUS, a subscriber is assigned a fax mailbox for his fax messages and email, which he can retrieve from any fax unit accessible at the moment. Meanwhile, with VOICEPLUS, subscribers not only receive voice messages. A private reply facility can also make it possible for him to send a reply to his caller. One of the best benefits that Infoplus offers is a service called ROAMPLUS. It facilitates long distance messaging at local rates. Now, callers need only dial a local INFOPLUS number to send a message to a subscriber who can automatically receive it on his pager or retrieve it by simply calling the local Infoplus access number. And with FORWARDPLUS, voice and fax messages can now be forwarded to another subscriber. The new INFOPLUS provides all of these messaging technology benefits along with other reliable value-added services such as personalized greeting, personal wake-up calls, and so much more.

With this unparalleled strength in value-added services, the new INFOPLUS underscores the usefulness of messaging technology as a vital support or backup to any means of communication one may presently have.

ADVT.

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE
myAyala.com
Get free movie tickets instantly!
Just text "hello Gbelt" then send to 2333 and win!
Valid only on the stated screening date and time for the first 400 to present text announcement.
Tickets will be distributed two hours before screening time at the Greenbelt lobby.
Approved by DTI-NCR.

*Promo period is from January 29 to May 26, 2001. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0026, Series of 2001.

## The Mandate of GSIS Remains Unchanged:

# We Secure the Best Insurance for All Government Assets, Marked by the Least Cost and the Greatest Protection.

***We at the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) have recently taken one determined step to further strengthen our capability to get the best insurance and re insurance packages for all government property insured at 1.5 trillion pesos.***

***We are actually being faithful to our legal mandate to insure such government assets whose very magnitude and value make us realize the awesome responsibility on our corporate shoulders.***

***We have thus responded to such a mandate with the bold resolve to get only the best insurance for assets the Filipino people truly own.***

**We Acted Quickly.**

We examined the underwriting requirements of all government property insurable under GSIS, and we were greatly concerned with the number of small-time reinsurance brokers whose lack of qualification and financial capability continually exposes our insured property to great risk. We at the GSIS therefore acted quickly to course all reinsurance requirements through the National Reinsurance Corporation (Nat'l Re).

**Nat'l Re as an Interim Measure.**

Placing reinsurance requirements with Nat'l Re is an interim mechanism, pending the finalization of a policy that will establish a number of accreditation criteria in the selection of reinsurance firms and brokers. Under this interim arrangement, all placements are coursed through Nat'l Re and its members to the extent of their respective net worth. Beyond the members' net worth, such placements are forwarded to the world's top three reinsurers for appropriate coverage.

The Nat'l Re is a creation of law and is made up of the 74 leading reinsurance agencies in the country, representing more than 70 percent of the 105 direct writing insurance firms.

**Era of Transparency and High Standards.**

Time was when reinsurance decisions were handled by reinsurance brokers who were selected on the basis of favoritism, force of habit, or various ways of persuasion. This will soon be a thing of the past. A new era of transparency and high standards will forthwith govern all our reinsurance requirements.

**GSIS Cannot Be Distracted from Its Mandate.**

The GSIS is in the business of getting the best insurance and reinsurance for all government property. We cannot be distracted from this mandate by certain quarters who want us to worry about the economic future of small-time reinsurance brokers. In the real world of free market forces, as a first essential step, all brokers must show that they are qualified. Those who cannot compete fair and square belong to another world - but surely not the world of business in general and reinsurance in particular.

**Good News to the Qualified, Bad News to the Unqualified.**

Brokers who are financially sound and have a sterling track record in putting together a superior risk management package surely welcome this move. This is not so, understandably, for small-time brokers lacking the required financial backbone and good track record. Instead of taking the positive step to qualify themselves, they have chosen to question the new policy that is clearly for the greater good of our country and people.

**The Big Picture: GSIS Has Only 10% of Reinsurance Business.**

In 1999, the country's reinsurance volume amounted to 12.28 billion pesos. That same year, GSIS ceded 1.4 billion pesos in reinsurance, a little over 10 percent of the entire volume, leaving 10.87 billion pesos to the private sector. What does this mean? GSIS's volume, when coursed through Nat'l Re, could not possibly be the cause of the bankruptcy of the entire reinsurance brokerage industry.

### Our Commitment and Resolve:

*In our innovative effort to make the GSIS more responsive to the needs of its members;*
*in our unbreakable resolve to get the best insurance protection for all government property;*
*in our faithful stewardship of a P181 billion corporation wholly devoted to serve our country and people...*

**WE ARE PLACING OUR LOYALTY TO THE HIGHER TRUTH — THAT IF WE SERVE OUR MEMBERS WELL, WE ARE SIMILARLY SERVING OUR COUNTRY AND PEOPLE WELL.**
**WE THEREFORE ASK ALL SECTORS TO JOIN US IN UPHOLDING THIS TRUTH.**

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM

## SM CINEMA GUIDE

SM Dial-A-Movie • Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **SM CITY BACOOR** | | 4173868 |
| 1 | DOLBY SURROUND | RUGRATS |
| 2 | DOLBY SURROUND | MADERASO |
| 3 | DOLBY DIGITAL | ANTI-TRUST |
| 4 | DOLBY SURROUND | THE CROW |
| 5 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 6 | DOLBY SURROUND | ABAKADA... INA |
| 7 | DOLBY SURROUND | CLOSE FOR RENOVATION |
| 8 | DOLBY SURROUND | CLOSE FOR RENOVATION |
| **SM CENTERPOINT** | | 7149522 • 7161416 |
| 1 | DOLBY SURROUND | ABAKADA ... INA |
| 2 | DOLBY SURROUND | SEDUCER |
| 3 | DTS | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 4 | DOLBY SURROUND | THE CROW |
| 5 | DOLBY DIGITAL | DOUBLE TAKE |
| 6 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | MADERASO |
| 7 | DOLBY SURROUND | ANTI-TRUST |
| 8 | DOLBY SURROUND | RUGRATS |
| 9 | DOLBY SURROUND | GLADIATOR |
| 10 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | AIR-BUD-3 |
| **SM CITY FAIRVIEW** | | 9350749 |
| 1 | DOLBY SURROUND | OOOPS, TEKA LANG |
| 2 | DOLBY SURROUND | THEY NEST |
| 3 | DOLBY SURROUND | SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY |
| 4 | DOLBY DIGITAL | RUGRATS |
| 5 | DOLBY SURROUND | ABAKADA ... INA |
| 6 | DOLBY SURROUND | MADERASO |
| 7 | DOLBY DIGITAL | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 8 | DOLBY SURROUND | THE CROW |
| 9 | DOLBY SURROUND | SAVE THE LAST DANCE |
| 10 | DOLBY SURROUND | DOULBLE TAKE |
| 11 | DOLBY SURROUND | DRACULA 2000 |
| 12 | DOLBY SURROUND | ANTI-TRUST |
| **SM CITY MANILA** | | 5239240 |
| 1 | DOLBY DIGITAL | ANTI-TRUSRT |
| 2 | DOLBY DIGITAL | SEDUCER |
| 3 | DOLBY SURROUND | DOUBLE TAKE |
| 4 | DOLBY SURROUND | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 5 | DOLBY DIGITAL | RUGRATS |
| 6 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | GLADIATOR (RI) |
| 7 | DOLBY SURROUND | THEY NEST |
| 8 | DOLBY SURROUND | CONGENIALITY |
| 9 | DOLBY SURROUND | ABAKADA... INA |
| 10 | DOLBY SURROUND | DRACULA 2000 |
| 11 | DOLBY SURROUND | AIR BUD 3 |
| 12 | DOLBY SURROUND | THE CROW |
| **GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR** | | 8820950 |
| 1 | ULTRA SURROUND | HAPDI NG TAG-INIT |
| 2 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | ABAKADA INA |
| 3 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | MADERASO |
| **SM MEGAMALL** | | 6331901 • 6329401 |
| 1 | DOLBY DIGITAL | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| 2 | DOLBY SURROUND | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| 3 | DOLBY DIGITAL | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| 4 | DTS | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| 5 | DOLBY SURROUND | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| 6 | DOLBY SURROUND | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| 7 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | ABAKADA...INA |
| 8 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | RUGRATS |
| 9 | DOLBY SURROUND | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 10 | DOLBY SURROUND | ANTI-TRUST |
| 11 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | DOUBLE TAKE |
| 12 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | THE CROW |
| **SM CITY NORTH EDSA** | | 9295452 |
| 1 | DOLBY SURROUND | THE CROW |
| 2 | DOLBY SURROUND | MADERASO |
| 3 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | ABAKADA |
| 4 | DOLBY SURROUND | RUGRATS |
| 5 | DOLBY SURROUND | AIR BUD 3 |
| 6 | DOLBY SURROUND | ANTI-TRUST |
| 7 | DTS | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 8 | DOLBY DIGITAL | DOUBLE TAKE |
| 9 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | THEY NEST |
| 10 | DOLBY SURROUND | SEDUCER |
| 11 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | SAVE THE LAST DANCE |
| 12 | DOLBY SURROUND | CROUCHING TIGER |
| **SM SOUTHMALL** | | 8066858 • 8066782 |
| 1 | ULTRA SURROUND | RUGRATS |
| 2 | ULTRA SURROUND | ANTI-TRUST |
| 3 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | SWEET NOVMEBER |
| 4 | ULTRA SURROUND | ABAKADA INA |
| 5 | ULTRA SURROUND | MADERASO |
| 6 | ULTRA SURROUND | AIR-BUD 3 |
| 7 | ULTRA SURROUND | THE CROW |
| 8 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | DOUBLE TAKE |
| 9 | ULTRA SURROUND | CLOSE FOR RENOVATION |
| 10 | ULTRA SURROUND | CLOSE FOR RENOVATION |
| **TUTUBAN CENTER** | | 2514302 |
| 1 | ULTRA SURROUND | THE CROW |
| 2 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | ANTI-TRUST |
| 3 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | MADERASO |
| 4 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | ABAKADA... INA |
| **SM CEBU** | | 2313876 |
| 1 | DOLBY SURROUND | WEDDING PLANNER |
| 2 | ULTRA SURROUND | GLADIATOR |
| 3 | ULTRA SURROUND | SAVE THE LAST DANCE |
| 4 | ULTRA SURROUND | MS. CONGENIALITY |
| 5 | ULTRA SURROUND | UHAW SA INIT |
| 6 | ULTRA SURROUND | RUGRATS |
| 7 | DOLBY SURROUND | BAIT |
| **SM ILOILO** | | 3209422 |
| 1 | ULTRA SURROUND | SAVE THE LAST DANCE |
| 2 | ULTRA SURROUND | CLOSED |
| 3 | ULTRA SURROUND | BAIT |
| 4 | ULTRA SURROUND | WEDDING PLANNER |
| 5 | ULTRA SURROUND | MS. CONGENIALITY |
| 6 | ULTRA SURROUND | RUGRATS |
| 7 | ULTRA SURROUND | CLOSED |
| 8 | ULTRA SURROUND | TOTAL AIKIDO |
| **SM PAMPANGA** | | 7128015 |
| 1 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | RUGRATS |
| 2 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | CHOCOLAT |
| 3 | DOLBY SURROUND | THEY NEST |
| 4 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | TOO MUCH FLESH |
| 5 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | UHAW SA INIT |
| 6 | DOLBY SURROUND | ABAKADA INA |

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.

## AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

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reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

**GLORIETTA 1** (formerly QUAD)
1 ABAKADA... INA
2 SWEET NOVEMBER
3 THE CROW: SALVATION
4 DOUBLE TAKE

All Digital Sounds
**GLORIETTA 4**
1 RUGRATS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 SWEET NOVEMBER THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 AIR-BUD 3 in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 ANTI-TRUST in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 FINDING FORESTER in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 DOUBLE TAKE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
Art Film

**GREENBELT**
1 FINDING FORESTER (Phil. Premiere) in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 SWEET NOVEMBER in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 SAVE THE LAST DANCE in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 APRIL 20, & 21 GARY V. BY REQUEST 2 Onstage

**ALABANG TOWN CENTER**
1 SWEET NOVEMBER THX in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 DOUBLE TAKE in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 RUGRATS IN PARIS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 ANTI-TRUST in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 ABAKADA... INA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

## MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

## MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

| | |
|---|---|
| **Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA** (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72 | |
| 1 (SDDS) | AIR BUD 3 |
| 2 (SDDS) | ANTI-TRUST |
| 3 (DTS) | RUGRATS |
| 4 [illegible] (DTS) | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 5 [illegible] (DOLBY) | THE GIFT |
| 6 [illegible] (SDDS) | DUBLE TAKE |
| 7 [illegible] (DOLBY) | THE CROW |
| 8 [illegible] | THEY NEST |
| 9 [illegible] | MADERASO |
| 10 [illegible] | ABAKADA INA |
| **Pearl Plaza Cinemas** (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486 | |
| 1 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| 2 | |
| 3 (DTS) | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 (DTS) Golden Pearl THX | |
| **Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3** (Kalaw) tel 536.4315 | |
| 1 (DOLBY) | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 2 (DTS) | RUGRATS |
| 3 | ABAKADA INA |
| **Masagana CINEMA 1 2 3 4** (Pasay) tel 831.6603 | |
| 1 | ABAKADA ... INA |
| 2 | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT |
| 3 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| **starmall Movies** (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986 | |
| 1 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| 2 | ABAKADA INA |
| 3 | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT |
| 4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 5 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| **Metropolis** (Alabang) tel 543.4001 | |
| 1 | THE CROW |
| 2 | SEDUCER |
| 3 | ABAKADA INA |
| 4 | OOOPS, TEKA LANG |
| 5 | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 6 | GLADIATOR |
| 7 | SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY |
| 8 | RESERVE |
| **Uniwide Metromall** (Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074 | |
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| **Uniwide Coastal Mall** (Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152 | |
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| **Center Plaza Cinema** (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007 | |
| 1 | SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY |
| 2 | MS CONGENIALITY |
| **FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC** tel 930.9515 | |
| 1 | |
| 2 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| 3 | |
| **Spring** (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864 | |
| 1 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| A | DRACULA |
| **JC Cinema** (Parañaque) tel 825.8626 | |
| 1 | CLOSED |
| 3 | CLOSED |

| | |
|---|---|
| **GOTESCO CINEMAS City** (Manila) tel 734.8568 | |
| 1 (DOLBY) | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 2 | RESERVE |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | SAVE THE LAST DANCE |
| 5 | SEDUCER |
| 6 | ABAKADA . INA |
| 7 (DTS) | RUGRATS |
| 8 (SDDS) | AIR BUD 3 |
| 9 (DOLBY) | THE CROW |
| **Caloocan** tel 362.3508 | |
| 2 | ABAKADA INA |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | RESERVE |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| **Grand Central** (Caloocan) tel 364.3781 | |
| 1 | SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY |
| 2 | ABAKADA INA |
| 3 | OOOPS. TEKA LANG |
| 4 (SDDS) | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| 5 | SEDUCER |
| 6 (DOLBY) | THE CROW |
| 7 (DTS) | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 8 | RESERVE |
| 9 | RESERVE |
| **Commonwealth** tel 951.0083 | |
| 1 (DTS) | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 2 | ABAKADA INA |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| 5 (SDDS) | RUGRATS |
| 6 | SEDUCER |
| 7 (DOLBY) | THE CROW |
| 8 | OOOPS. TEKA LANG |
| **Ortigas** tel 656.6795 | |
| 1 | ABAKADA INA |
| 2 | SEDUCER |
| 3 (DTS) | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 4 | OOOPS. TEKA LANG |
| 5 (SDDS) | GLADIATOR |
| 6 (DOLBY) | RESERVE |
| 7 (DOLBY) | RESERVE |
| **Universal** (Manila) tel 733.2470 | |
| 1 | ABAKADA INA |
| **Sampaguita** (Cubao) tel 911.7888 | |
| 1 | ABAKADA INA |
| **Dilson** (Manila) tel 734.7724 | |
| Dilson | BODY TO BODY |
| Lords | TUHOG |
| Jennet | ONE NIGHT STAND |
| **MARKET PLACE Mandaluyong** tel 533.3851 / 533.3856 | |
| 1 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| 2 | ABAKADA. INA |
| 3 | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 4 | DEMON GATE |
| **Prima** (Pasig) tel 641.1215 | |
| 1 | |
| 3 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| **Super Cinerama** (Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238 | |
| 1 | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 2 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| 3 | RUGRATS |
| 4 | ABAKADA INA |
| 5 | UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA |
| **Divisoria Mall** (Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619 | |
| 1 | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT |
| 2 | ABAKADA... INA |
| 3 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| 4 | PRODIGAL FIGHTER |
| 5 | UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA |
| 6 | ANG BOYPREND KONG PARI |
| **Baclaran LRT Cinema** tel 512.0115 or 512.0116 | |
| 1 | ABAKADA... INA |
| 2 | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT |
| 3 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |

| | |
|---|---|
| **CINEMA 2000 Cinema 2000 Target Mall** (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198 | |
| 1 | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT |
| 2 | THEY NEST |
| 3 (DTS) | ABAKADA INA |
| **Cinema 2000 Waltermart** (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383 | |
| 1 | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT |
| 2 (DTS) | RUGRATS |
| 3 (DOLBY) | THEY NEST |
| 4 | ABAKADA INA |
| **Lianas Cinema** (Alabang) tel 850.1276 | |
| 1 (SDDS) | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| 2 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| 3 | RUGRATS |
| 4 (DTS) | ABAKADA INA |
| **Lianas MovieCity** (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202 | |
| 1 (DOLBY) | THEY NEST |
| 2 | ABAKADA INA |
| 3 (DTS) | RUGRATS |
| 4 | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT |
| 5 | UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA |
| **Olivarez Tri-Cinema** (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883 | |
| 1 | ABAKADA INA |
| 2 | RUGRATS |
| 3 | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT |
| **Olivarez Los Baños** tel (049) 536.5101 | |
| 1 | ABAKADA INA |
| 2 | RUGRATS |
| 3 | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT |
| **Olivarez Tagaytay** tel (046) 413.0311 | |
| 1 | GLADIATOR |
| 2 | BABAING PUTIK |
| 3 | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT |
| **Morales Cinema** (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736 | |
| 1 | THE GIFT |
| 2 | ABAKADA INA |
| 3 | RUGRATS |
| **Sunshine** (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376 | |
| 1 | ABAKADA INA |
| 2 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| 3 | DRACULA |
| 4 | |
| **Cabuyao** CINEMAS TEL. (049) 531-4808 | |
| 1 (DTS) | THEY NEST |
| 2 (DTS) | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT |
| **Fourstep** (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385 | |
| 1 | ABAKADA INA |
| **Emperor** (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657 | |
| 1 | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT |
| 2 | ABAKADA INA |
| 3 | UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA |
| **Fiesta World Mall** (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790 | |
| 1 | PAY IT FORWARD |
| 2 | THE GIFT |
| 3 | TOTAL AIKIDO |
| 4 | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT |
| **Berma** tel 879.2168 | |
| 1 | ABAKADA INA |
| 2 | ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON |
| **CitiMall** (Parañaque) tel 820.7269 | |
| 1 | ABAKADA INA |
| 2 | RESERVE |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | RESERVE |
| **Jade Cinema** (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03 | |
| 1 (DOLBY EX) | GLADIATOR |
| 2 | ABAKADA INA |
| 3 | THEY NEST |
| 4 (DTS EX) | CHOCOLATS |

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

THX DOLBY dts SDDS

PLANET 9 BALL
BILLIARDS-BAR FAMILY KTV

Robinson's Place
2nd Level (Pedro Gil Gate)
Ermita, Manila

FOR RESERVATIONS PLS. CALL 5258292

# South Border performs at new Padi's Point

THE AWARD-WINNING South Border band will have a special concert at the new three-story Padi's Point Restaurant and Bar at the corner of Mindanao and Congressional avenues in Quezon City on Monday, April 23.

South Border, known for its repertoire of pop jazz and R&B, has won 35 awards including 20 Awit Awards and seven Katha Awards.

Among its original hits are "Kahit Kailan" and "Sa 'Yo," which were honored as Song of the Year in 1997 and 1999.

Their first album, "South Border," became a triple platinum. Their second album, "Bump," hit gold, while the third, "South Border The Live Album," became platinum.

The concert is produced by Mindave Entertainment Corp. Padi's Mindave is owned by Palanca award-winning writer Wilson Y. Lee Flores.

For details, call 453-00-80, 414-49-30 to 34 or 925-31-17.

## ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD

STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS

e-mail:htc@netasia-mla.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieword.com

## NOW SHOWING

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

**ERMITA**
536-7809-14

❶ SWEET NOVEMBER
❷ ANTI TRUST
❸ DOUBLE TAKE
❹ RUGRATS
❺ ABAKADA... INA
❻ THE CROW
❼ AIR BUD

**GALLERIA**

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Robinsons Movieworld aims to bring a new dimension to your viewing experience + 10 brand new cinemas equipped with THX, DTS, SDDS, DOLBY DIGITAL soundsystem.

**IMUS**
(046)875-3838

❶ THE CROW
❷ RUGRATS
❸ ABAKADA...INA
❹ SWEET NOVEMBER
❺ MADERASO
❻ ANTI-TRUST

**BACOLOD**
(034)441-0463

❶ SAVE THE LASTY DANCE
❷ BAIT
❸ THE WEDDING PLANNER
❹ MS. CONGENIALITY
❺ DEMON GATE
❻ BABAING PUTIK

DOLBY dts SDDS

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101 | |
|---|---|
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | ABAKADA INA |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | RUGRATS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | THE CROW |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | THEY NEST |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY) | AIR BUD 3 |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY) | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY) | ALIW (Re-issue) |
| FIESTA CARNIVAL | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| NEW FRONTIER | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| **MANILA** | |
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | ALIW MATAMIS ANG LASON |
| MIRAMAR | BALAHIBONG PUSA / BODY SHOT |
| ODEON | THE CROW |
| ODEON-2 | ALIW MATAMIS ANG LASON |
| ROBEN | ABAKADA INA |
| TANDEM-1 | UHAW SA INIT |
| TANDEM-2 | TOTAL AIKIDO |
| TIMES | EYE OF BEHOLDER · REMEMBER THE TITANS |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL SCAN |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | CLOSED |
| ACT-4 | CLOSED |
| CORONET-2 | BAYAD NA PATI KALULUWA MO |
| QUEZON-1 | ALIW MATAMIS ANG LASON |
| REMAR | ABAKADA... INA |
| REMAR-2 | ALIW MATAMIS ANG LASON |
| **CUBAO** | |
| OCEAN SUPERAMA | BABAING PUTIK |
| OCEAN CINEMA-A | PANABLA |
| OCEAN CINEMA-B | CRISELDA |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79, 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | RUGRATS |
| CINEMA-2 | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-54091 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | ABAKADA. INA |
| CINEMA-2 | MADERASO |
| CINEMA-3 | SEDUCER |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | THE CROW |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | SAVE THE LAST DANCE |
| CINEMA-6 | SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY |
| CINEMA-7 | GLADIATOR |
| CINEMA-8 | DRACULA 2000 |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | SWEET NOVEMBER |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | RUGRATS |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | DOUBLE TAKE |
| CINEMA-12 | AIR BUD 3 |
| CINEMA-14 | ANTI-TRUST |
| CINEMA-15 | ABAKADA INA |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT · HIYAS |
| CINEMA-3 | MS CONGENIALITY |
| **POWER PLANT CINEMA** | |
| CINEMA-1 | CHOCOLAT |
| CINEMA-2 | AIRBUD 3 |
| CINEMA-3 | RUGRATS IN PARIS |
| CINEMA-4 | THE CROW |
| CINEMA-5 | CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON |
| CINEMA-6 | SWEET NOVEMBER |

## Preposterous

(From page A25)

The screenplay by Kurt Voelker fails to induce any affection for or interest in the main protagonists. We don't really get to know Sara and Nelson because of the story's terse development. The audience is hurriedly led through one contrived scene after another, with no fine detail, no fluidity, and no subtleties defining their love story.

It's like the filmmakers are just connecting the dots, integrating one element after another using an instruction manual. For instance, Nelson's initial hostility to Sara's scheme soon melts into a montage of "falling in love" scenes after he accepts—with , no thoughtful transition to justify his change of heart.

Because of the weak characters they play, Reeves and Theron fail to show the right chemistry on screen. They just seem to be two good-looking actors put together, playing their parts.

Theron and Reeves are not really known for their acting chops, but you can't argue with the fact that the two can be really charming given the right movie. They looked good together in "The Devil's Advocate" and that was a creepy film. It's a pity they weren't given a more engaging story because you just know they could have really hit it off as an onscreen couple.

My unsolicited advice is, if you really want sweetness, you'll get a better serving from "Chocolat."

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# ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

## Funny digs at Philippine politics

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

YEARS ago, Channel 2's "Abangan ang Susunod na Kabanata" made a name for itself as one of local TV's best sitcoms with a decided bent for political satire.

When the sitcom ended its long run, it left a void that hasn't been filled—until a couple of weeks ago, when another political satire show made its debut on TV, just in time for the current electoral campaign period.

Interestingly, the new sitcom is none other than the sequel to "Abangan . . . ," titled "Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata." Its cast includes some of the first show's original comics, like **Noel Trinidad** and **Tessie Tomas**, who play the program's resident corrupt couple, Congressman and Mrs. Tengco.

Like "Abangan," "Eto na" gets in some effectively funny digs at the crazy, corrupt, hypocritical, "user-friendly" world of Philippine politics.

The Tengcos' son and heir, **Dino** is reported to have died, but he has a handy replacement in the congressman's illegitimate son by one of his mistresses.

Thus does the new program show that it is perfectly ready, willing and able to "learn" from the idiosyncracies and peccadilloes of real-life political leaders and characters. TV art imitates life? You bet!

Other "from life" inspirations: The congressman can't campaign for reelection, so his Imeldific wife is persuaded to run in his place, despite her aversion for the poor and unwashed, and their attendant odors.

And, on the other side of the Tengcos' high wall, characters who live in the slum nearby are now made up of a bold star and other "*kapit sa patalim*" survivors of the country's dire economic woes.

Despite these colorful types, however, the show's first episode had a slow start before the laughs really got going. The breakthrough came when **Jon Santos** made the first of his numerous cameo appearances on the show, sequentially impersonating different dingbat political figures.

Santos came on strong as a crazy candidate of popular ill-repute, and the show finally perked up. However, his subsequent incarnations weren't as hilarious, so the episode didn't end on as high a comic note as it should have.

Still the ingredients for success have been put in place, so "Eto na ang Susunod ng Kabanata" can, with more astute comic care and feeding, end up matching the spirited fun and games of Channel 2's original political rib-tickler.

### Feedback

FROM **Siegfrieda A. Calina**: "I finally saw the film 'Live Show,' and I didn't find it pornographic. The sex scenes were done in context and weren't titillating. The emotion elicited is pity, not lust.

"If I were president, the movie would make me work harder to alleviate poverty. If I were a church leader, it would make me work harder to spread the good news to the poor.

"It's sad that our leaders have missed the film's point. The movie depicts how compromised the poor are. The president should respond by giving them jobs; the cardinal, by giving them hope."

### 'Naughty' shows on TV

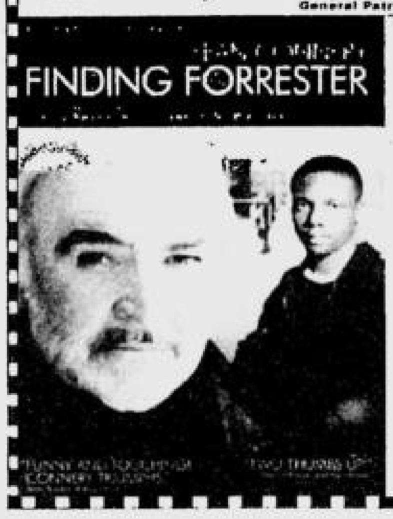
THERE are signs that the local movie industry is starting to clean up its act, after the recent furor over bold films. But the TV trade appears to be blissfully unaware of the public clamor for change, and persists in churning out its own version of "naughty" productions—this, despite the fact that television enters people's homes and can be readily viewed by children.

What are our TV people waiting for—another public outcry and resulting clamp-down? They should clean up their act *now*, before the fur hits the fan.

For starters, they should get rid of those exploitative noontime "beauty" contests, and all the *double entendre* "humor" that goes with them.

Next, do away with features on topics like suggestive or downright lewd song lyrics. And quite a number of people are complaining about those near-naked women gyrating away on some dance programs.

What about you, dear reader? What do *you* find offensive on the tube?



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## 'SWEET NOVEMBER'

# Preposterous in any season

BY RUBEN CRUZ JR.

**REVIEW**

SWEET it isn't.

I told a female friend what I thought of the film "Sweet November." My friend said, "Keanu Reeves is a terrible actor, but he's so cute."

Perhaps that's a dead giveaway, telling me that much of what I say about the film won't matter.

There are a number of moviegoers who would see Keanu Reeves regardless of whether the film is good or bad. That is fact. You throw in a knockout like Charlize Theron, and the odds are further stacked against you.

But hey, I'm not here to convince anybody anyway. In fact, Reeves' poor acting is not even the main reason I didn't like the film. And I'm a hopeless romantic Romance movies are supposed to be made for saps like me.

But this one just fails to evoke any kind of emotion at all aside from disgust.

A lot of people go to see romance movies because they like to get caught up in the emotional whirlwind of the characters. They want to fall in love along with them, even if it's for just two hours or so. Some of the best lines in romance movies end up getting plagiarized in love letters or in conversations among lovers.

I know of a guy who got his wife to marry him by saying, "You make me want to be a better man." And the girl fell for it, never mind if Jack Nicholson said it first (in "As Good as It Gets"); it was still sweet.

### Hard sell

But every good romance movie has to have a certain element of believability for one to fall for it. The story must sell for the chemistry to take effect—the chemistry between the protagonists, and the chemistry between the film and the audience.

And that is why "Sweet November" fails to make the grade. It doesn't have that element because it's anchored to a preposterous concept, one that fails to connect even when the imagination is flying. The story is so absurd it makes falling in love after sharing a winning lottery ticket more believable.

That, by the way, was the premise of another film ("It Could Happen to You"), a premise that called for some serious suspension of disbelief. But in some movies we are all too willing to make that investment, in others not.

"Sweet November" is one of the hard sells.

Reeves plays Nelson Moss, a hotshot, cutthroat ad executive whom you immediately know would get his comeuppance in one way or another.

Nelson goes through his life-altering experience after his run-in with Sara Deever (Theron), a free spirit who finds something wrong with the way Nelson is living his life. Sara offers to help Nelson by inviting him to live with her for a month during which she would teach him how to truly enjoy life without a care in the world. (Yes folks, free sex is a given.)

### Freaky

It turns out Nelson is not even the first guy Sara propositions with this kooky scheme. He's just the latest—he's just Mr. November. We are asked to believe that this is Sara's forte, that it's her mission—to fix a broken man every month.

Why a month? Because, as she says, "it's long enough to be meaningful, but short enough to stay out of trouble."

So a lucky guy can live in a cozy San Francisco apartment for free, become intimate with a gorgeous six-footer like Theron, and walk away with no strings attached, no commitments whatsoever after a month? Where do you sign up?

Except, there's something absolutely freaky in the way the film presents Theron's character. Sara goes after Nelson pretty much like a mad stalker and whatever charm she has goes out the window. The magic of spontaneity—going with someone you've just met—is flushed out by the more persuasive concern: Never talk to, much less move in with, a stranger.

You know Sara's safe and sweet but you get that out of conjecture (Because this film is supposed to be a love story, this is not "The Watcher.") not because the film develops her character as such. When Nelson hesitates to accept her offer immediately, we are not baffled; we feel even grateful that he has the good sense to stay away from her.

And what is darn wrong with Nelson's life anyway? That's another question in a long list of questions about this movie that are left unanswered. I know we're supposed to be swept off our feet, not get tied up by realism, but hey, c'mon, give us something to work with!

Are we supposed to believe that this could really happen?

PREPOSTEROUS/A24

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| THE CROW - R 18<br>1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 | CROUCHING TIGER - P13<br>11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30 | SWEET NOVEMBER - P 13<br>12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 |

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HONDA

# Lopezes eye sale of part of ABS-CBN

**BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.**

THE LOPEZ group is seriously considering to trim its holdings in its flagship company, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., to raise cash for its financially troubled investment arm Benpres Holdings Corp.

The Lopezes currently own 59 percent of ABS-CBN and are keen on selling as much as 8 percent of their holdings to maintain a majority position in the country's dominant media entity.

The Lopezes are currently hard-pressed to meet the cash requirements of Benpres subsidiaries Bayan Telecommunications Inc., Maynilad Water Services Inc., and First Philippine Infrastructure Inc.

While the company declined to comment on the impending reduction in the Lopezes' share in ABS-CBN, officials denied that they were diverting part of ABS-CBN's cash flow to Benpres Holdings, which led to a sell-off of Lopez stocks yesterday.

While ABS-CBN maintained that advances to Benpres from ABS-CBN fell to P1.7 billion last year from P1.79 billion the previous year, it did not reveal advances made during the first quarter this year.

A top investment banker said the ABS-CBN shares were the only liquid assets that the Lopezes could sell at relatively acceptable rates considering the broadcast giant's solid balance sheet amid the sluggish economy.

The combined sales of ABS-CBN's top four rivals account for only half of Channel 2's sales while their profits are only 12 percent of the Lopez outfit's.

However, the investment banker said the ABS-CBN shares would not be enough to solve Benpres' financial troubles but it would give the Lopezes more time to negotiate for a loan restructuring with creditors.

Benpres is negotiating with creditors for a restructuring of its $500-million loan and is on the lookout for possible alliances with local telecommunication firms to survive its current financial woes.

Benpres is also having trouble convincing the government for an automatic currency exchange rate adjustment (Cera) mechanism for water utilities to protect them from currency risks. This would allow subsidiary Maynilad to recover past foreign exchange losses and protect it from a depreciation of the peso in the future.

Maynilad assumed 90 percent of MWSS' multibillion-dollar obligations as part of its concession contract signed in 1997 worth $800 million. With the depreciation of the peso, the loan has ballooned to P40 billion from P20 billion.

Stocks of Lopez-related issues faltered yesterday after market rumors that Benpres was mulling over the sale of some of its assets to raise funds to aid financially strapped units like Bayantel and Maynilad.

Benpres was down 8.75 percent to P1.46; ABS-CBN lost 11.7 percent to close at P34; ABS Preferred was also off 11.84 percent at P33.50; Meralco "A" fell 3.53 percent to P41 and the "B" shares lost 5.08 percent at P56. First Philippine Holdings Inc., another unit of Benpres, lost 50 centavos to P23.

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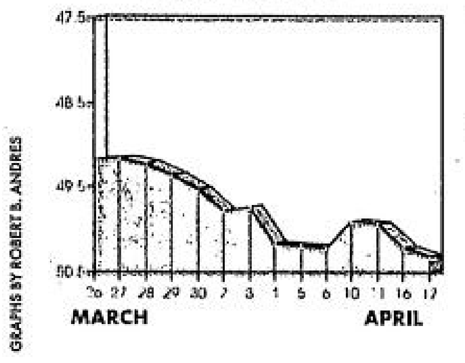

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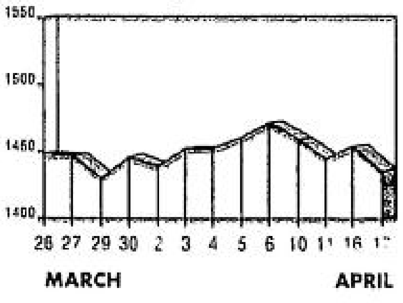
### STOCK MARKET

## Stocks end lower

STOCKS closed lower in sluggish trade yesterday with most investors largely cautious about taking positions due to still volatile global equities markets and the recent peso weakness.

The 33-share composite index lost 18.16 points, or 1.25 percent, to close at 1,435.68 points.

**PSE Composite Index**



*(See stock market report on Page B2)*

Traders said about half of the main index's losses was accounted for by companies within conglomerate Benpres Holdings Corp., following concerns the group may be suffering from financial difficulties.

Local players dominated trades and brokers said many investors were likely to return to the market only after the May congressional elections. *Reuters*

# Gov't, Go family fight for control of Equitable

**BY CLARISSA S. BATINO**

THE GOVERNMENT, through pension funds Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System, yesterday tried but failed to gain control of Equitable PCI Bank from the Go family.

As a result of the conflict, GSIS said it would no longer infuse additional equity into the bank while SSS said it would put in only P2.5 billion of the bank's P10 billion in much-needed capital infusion in the second quarter.

GSIS and SSS helped the Go family bankroll the acquisition by Equitable of the then PCIBank from the Lopez and Gokongwei groups.

"We would not put in a single cent as long as this bank is controlled by this group," GSIS chair and president Winston Garcia said.

In front of more than 500 shareholders, the GSIS chair and president revealed how the Go family was stubbornly protecting its control of the bank and that it was already proving to be detrimental to the country's third largest lender.

"There is no decisiveness in this board. There is a group who wants to control and wants the power but not the responsibility," Garcia said, referring to the Go family.

He said some groups, including existing shareholders, were already willing to infuse the much-needed capital into the bank. But the capital infusion has always been snagged by the unwillingness of the Go family to relinquish control.

In the same tension-filled meeting, Equitable PCI president Wilfrido Vergara tendered his "irrevocable resignation" but agreed to stay on as a director of the bank.

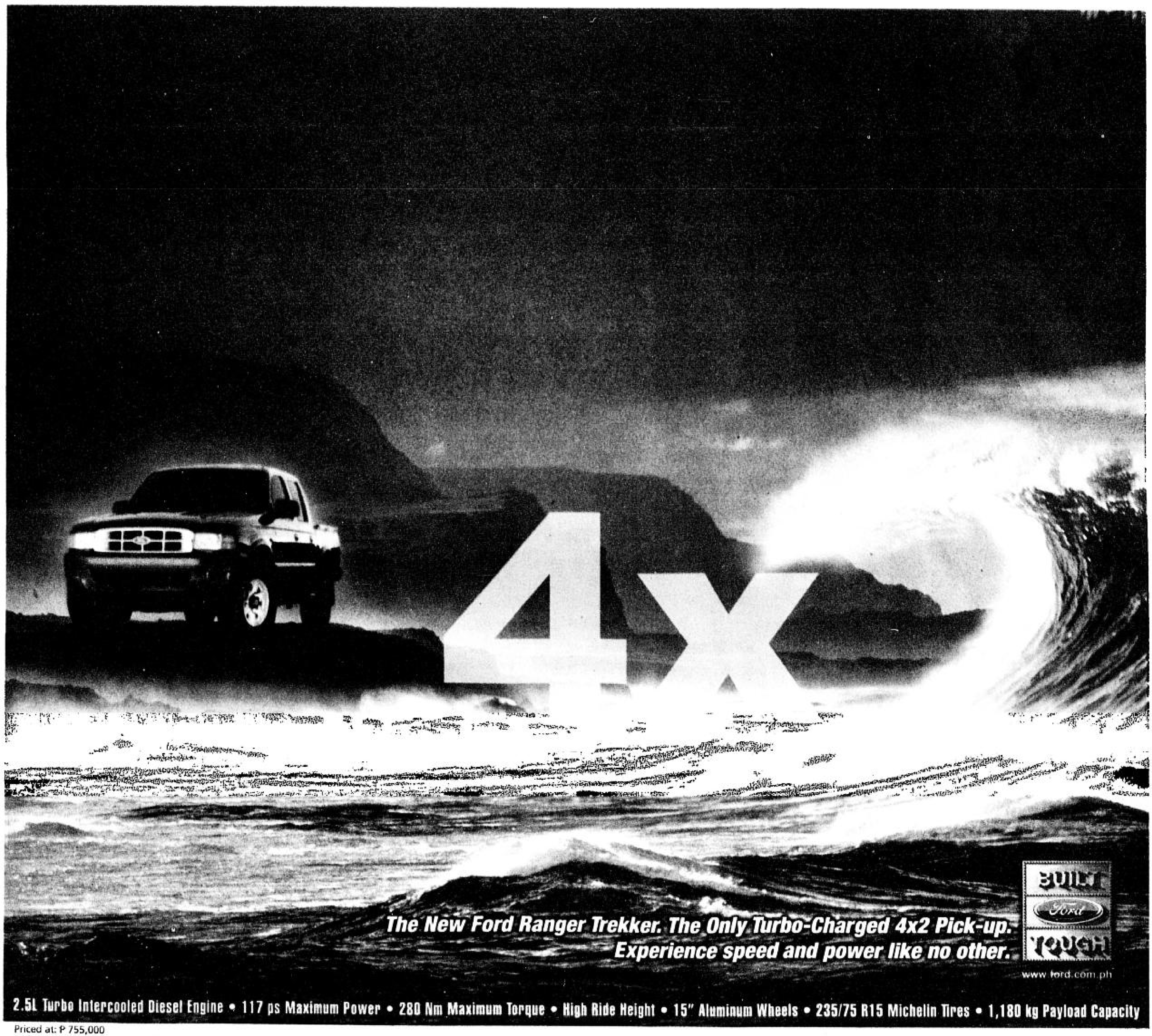
Garcia said Vergara's resignation was a sign of frustration. "He was only too diplomatic to blurt it out," said the GSIS chief, who credited Vergara together with his management team of having been able to turn the bank around following the crisis it had suffered from late last year to early this year.

Vergara said he was recommending Edilberto Javier, senior executive vice president, as his successor.

According to Garcia, what got him upset was that the Go family already agreed to nominate a common slate for Equitable PCI's 15-member board. Days before the stockholders' meeting, the Go family informed the two state-owned pension funds that it could no longer honor the agreement for a common slate.

Sources said the government wanted SSS chair and president Vitaliano Nañagas II to replace Peter

GOV'T/ B4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# Gov't maps out plan to retire $1.9B worth of Brady bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration will engage in an aggressive debt reduction program this year that will include the issuance of 20-year global bonds to retire $1.9 billion worth of "Brady bonds," Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo has announced.

Romulo said the finance department has lined up four schemes designed to bring down the country's foreign debts, which stood at $52.02 billion as of December.

Since 1986, the Philippines has been able to trim its external debts by about $5 billion through debt-for-asset swaps, debt buybacks, and debt-to-equity and debt-for-goods swap, according to the DOF.

The finance department wants to lengthen the maturity profile of the country's foreign debts by swapping Brady bonds—a national government borrowing backed by US government securities and named after former US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady—with 20-year global bonds.

The Ramos administration entered into a similar arrangement more than two years ago when it issued 25-year bonds in exchange for Brady debt papers.

"Faced with the complexities of managing a huge external debt and considering potential revenue from discounts and savings, the DOF may wish to further pursue engaging in similar schemes as a prudent debt management strategy," the DOF said in a report to Romulo.

The report said the Philippines was able to dispose of $414 million worth of debt papers in recent years by exchanging public sector external debts with physical and financial assets that the state wanted to dispose.

In 1990 and 1992, a debt buyback scheme brought down by $2.6 billion the country's external debts. Debts were retired at a 50-percent discount in 1990 while debts in 1992 were paid at a 54-percent discount.

The DOF said from 1986 to 1993, the country lobbed off over $1.9 billion from its external debts debt-to-equity arrangements.

"This involved the purchase by the investor of a debt paper from the secondary market to be redeemed by the obligor in peso," it reported.

The peso proceeds from the transaction, it said, were used to finance long-term capital investments.

A recent example of a debt-to-equity arrangement was the issuance of P8 billion worth of five-year progress bonds in August last year.

The bonds carried an option that allowed investors to exchange their bonds for shares in government firms or for cash upon maturity.

A debt-for-goods arrangement was resorted to by the government in 1994 with the Iraqi government.

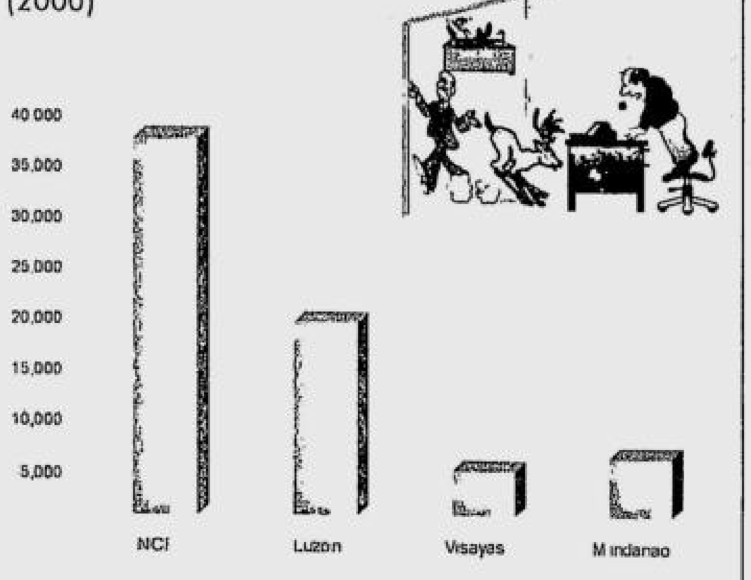
"This was a transaction whereby a debtor country offered its goods for export to cover full payment of its outstanding debt," the DOF said.

The scheme reduced the liabilities of state-owned Philippine National Construction Corp. to $20 million from $39 million.

## INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

### Displaced workers
(2000)



Source: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics

Compared to 1999, the number of displaced workers last year fell slightly by 7.7 percent to 66,293. More than half or 37,106 persons came from the National Capital Region where 1,316 establishments either closed down or reduced workforce.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

# DigiPen considers RP for expansion

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The DigiPen Institute of Technology, the world's top computer graphics school, is expanding into Asia to establish the first school for video game design and programming in the region.

A DigiPen representative has begun looking at potential sites in the Philippines ahead of the two other Asian countries being considered for the expansion—Malaysia and Singapore.

Preliminary talks were held late last month with Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo.

A source close to DigiPen founder and president, Claude Comair, confirmed the company's interest in Subic, pointing out, however, that "there's no decision yet no timetable has been set."

DigiPen first offered two-year courses in video game technology and computer animation in Vancouver, Canada, in 1994. It set up in 1998 the first four-year fully accredited college in the United States to grant baccalaureate degrees in video game programming.

Located at the Nintendo of America complex in Redmond, Washington, the DigiPen Institute, now popularly known as the Video Game University, was established to address the "chronic talent shortage" in the video game industry.

Video games are now a $9-10 billion industry and companies that make them pay as much as $80,000 a year in starting salaries for programmers. The more experienced ones can command starting pay of more than $150,000.

An INQUIRER source said the "expansion to Asia is being pipelined" but the company is also looking at Europe.

DigiPen is in the "analysis stage," a process estimated to take "a couple of months or a little more."

During this period, it has to do environmental scanning and find out available incentive packages to determine the right country to go into, the source said.

"Obviously, Subic has a lot to offer so we're seeing it first," the source added.

He explained that the future DigiPen school in Asia should be able to attract students regionwide, making Subic an ideal site because of its strategic location, direct access to transport and the SBMA's authority to issue visas. *Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# VRB transferred to trade dep't.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has taken over the reins of the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) as the government steps up its drive to arrest the worsening video piracy in the country.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said that the VRB's transfer from the Office of the President to the DTI was meant to focus the government's resources in stamping out bootlegging of copyright-based products in the country.

Under the wings of the DTI, the VRB can intensify its clamp down on movie pirates through closer coordination with the government's watchdog against fake consumer goods. With the DTI's nationwide network, the VRB can keep up with the illegal copying, sale and rental of Hollywood and Filipino movies which has become bolder and rampant over the past few years.

The DTI is hoping the move would appease American media giants that are getting increasingly annoyed by the widespread sale of illegal copies of Hollywood movies mostly in video compact disc format.

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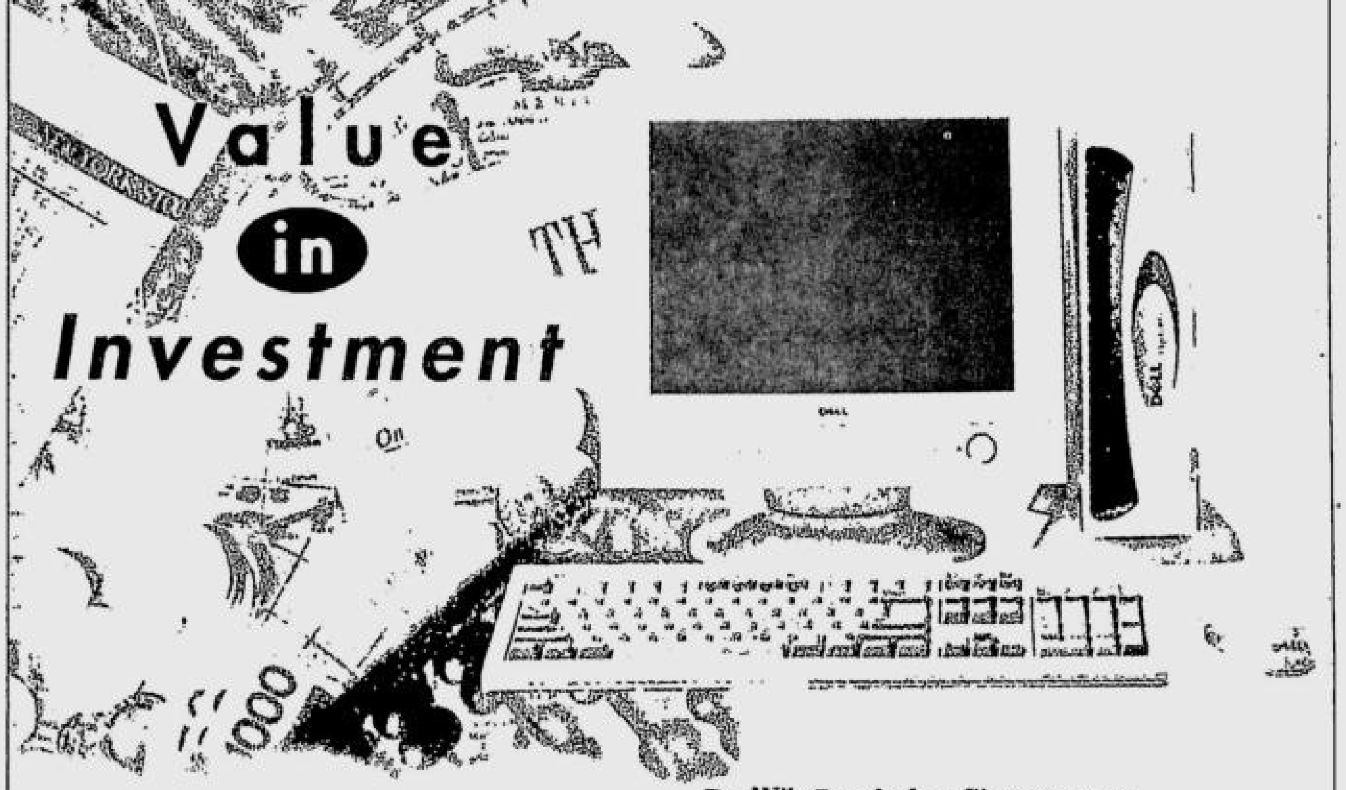

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# Tri-band tribulations

**COCKTALES**

*By Victor C. Agustin*

NEW YORK—If you are planning to buy a Siemens S40 and use it in the United States during a trip, we offer this short advice: Don't.

Unless you are prepared to undergo a crash course in German cell phone technology, do not be swayed by those full-page testimonials extolling the international roaming wonders of the S40.

Unfortunately we had been.

We brought our own spanking new S40 unit here for the Holy Week. This S40, already a replacement unit from the first problematic S40 we first had, failed to instantly connect with VoiceStream, the US partner network of Smart, when we turned the phone on the minute we landed at the JFK Airport. We had to fiddle with the phone's automatic/manual settings before the unit finally got connected.

While it received text messages from Manila, the S40 could not text back or even execute a basic function this phone/PDA wonder is supposed to do, and that is, make or receive phone calls.

Fortunately, we had also brought a back-up, a Nokia 8890 (incidentally only a dual-band), which saved the day for us, connecting with the US network right after we switched it on.

We took the S40 to two cell phone stores in midtown Manhattan, in the hope that they could activate the phone for us. You know what, it was the first time that the store clerks had seen the model.

(This being the United States, the preferred tri-band—which is still a rarity even in this financial center of the universe—is a homegrown Motorola model, so we were told.)

This is strange, as both Globe and Smart heavily promoted the S40 specifically targetting the US-bound market. Globe even rolled out full-page testimonial ads about a businesswoman swearing by the wonders of the S40 in her supposedly frequent US travels.

Makes you wonder if Globe came out with the testimonial ad without actually testing the S40 in the US of A, relying instead on the assurance and the good name of Siemens.

After a series of annoyed text messages and pulling strings with Smart spokesman Ramon Isberto, who patched us up with a technical guy even during the Holy Week, we finally got the S40 to make phone calls.

But we still have not figured out how to make the phone text back, despite hours of trying to solve the puzzle. As well, we have not been able to answer calls from Manila. The line just gets cut off every time we try to answer a phone call from the Philippines.

A VoiceStream 1-800 technical support personnel later told us that the Siemens S40 had not yet been programmed into their network access text code. This could only mean one thing—Siemens launched the S40 in Manila without having done the technical spade work with the US telephone company.

Another lesson. Buy an open-line phone for overseas travelling, so you could switch to the SIM card of the overseas phone company. That way, you can make local phone calls as well, without being zapped by overseas rates if you try using the Philippine SIM card in your cell phone to make the calls.

VoiceStream, for example, sells a SIM-and-phone card package for $75, which would enable your cell phone to make 250 minutes of phone calls anywhere in the continental United States without any roaming or long distance surcharges. You get to keep the SIM card and you may reload any amount of phone cards later after having exhausted the first 250 minutes.

Incidentally, if you think that the Globe and Smart networks are hopelessly clogged, wait 'til you try using your cellular phone here during rush hours. It's like you never left home.

### Short takes

- FORMER First Lady Imelda R. Marcos is scheduled to fly to the Big Apple next week, after receiving travel permission from the Sandiganbayan.
- THE US edition of Vogue, the women's magazine, has recently featured the firetrap Greenhills tiangge with a glowing report about the Muslim-run pearl stores, saying the Greenhills tiangge is the "best place to buy" the gems from the South Seas, provided, and this is the big if, the buyer can discern the real rounds with real luster from the cheaper and even dyed offrounds.

Those who want to read the article, entitled "Strung Out," may view it over the Internet at www.vogue.com. It was featured in the February 2001 issue.

- THE cheaper and easier way for Metro Manilans to buy hard-to-find music CDs is not here in the US. The best way is to check out the Internet websites of, say, Tower, Virgin, or HMV for their availability/prices and then course the order via MusicOne in Manila, a sister company of National Book Store.

The order may take one to three months to arrive; the upside, besides helping a local retailer, is that a CD there costs P550 on the average. CDs here now retail at an average of $13-$16 (P650-P900), tax and shipping not included.

### Heard through the grapevine

SMART president Napoleon Nazareno will most likely succeed Manuel V. Pangilinan as president of the mother company, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., in the forthcoming stockholders' meeting. MVP, on the other hand, will most likely be elevated to the chairmanship of PLDT, when the two-year graceful exit program of current chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr. expires.

*(Cocktales is supposed to be on a month-long holiday. Still, he may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi @yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

**COUNTRY SHARES**
**AS OF APRIL 17, 2001**

| | BUYING | SELLING |
|---|---|---|
| ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B* | 1,950,000 | 2,150,000 |
| METRO CLUB | 160,000 | 175,000 |
| BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB | 800,000 | 850,000 |
| CELEBRITY SPORTS | 210,000 | 215,000 |
| CLUB FILIPINO | | 350,000 |
| EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C** | 450,000 | 500,000*/700,000 ** |
| FOREST HILLS A/B*/C** | 280,000 | 290,000/350,000*/450,000 ** |
| MAKATI SPORTS A/B* | 400,000/450,000 * | 405,000*/500,000 |
| MANILA POLO CLUB | 3,500,000 | 4,000,000 |
| MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B* | 825,000/800,000 * | 850,000 |
| ORCHARD A/B*/C** | 500,000 | 300,000/425,000 * |
| PUERTO AZUL | 130,000 | 150,000 |
| QUEZON CITY SPORTS | 230,000 | 240,000 |
| RIVERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB A/B* | 240,000 | 280,000/420,000 * |
| TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB/GOLF* | 485,000/1,100,000 * | 490,000/1,200,000 * |
| TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS | 850,000 | 870,000 |
| VALLEY GOLF | 330,000 | 350,000 |
| VALLE VERDE | 175,000 | 190,000 |
| WACK WACK | 11,000,000 | 11,500,000 |

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# Burger King expansion seen to slow down

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE AYALA group plans to go slow on the expansion of its hamburger restaurant chain Burger King, the only food business it will retain once the group completes its divestment of Pure Foods Corp.

In a press briefing, Pure Foods president Renato Montemayor said: "The plan is to slow down given the weakness in the quick service restaurant business. But we'll develop a few more restaurants."

The Philippine franchise for Burger King is held by Philking Restaurants Development Corp., which is 49.5-percent owned by Pure Foods.

Philking's target was to open at least 15 new restaurants a year, with each store costing about P20 million. The company currently operates 39 restaurants, of which two were opened only this year.

Montemayor said the company could afford to slow down on its network expansion because it was so far ahead of its targets by five stores.

Philking had originally earmarked P300 million last year to expand the hamburger restaurant chain, which is now on its third year of operations.

Ayala Corp. consultant Delfin Lazaro said the operations of Philking were excluded from the Pure Foods buyout deal being worked out with SMC because the latter had requested so.

Lazaro said SMC did not want to include the Burger King business in its acquisition of the Ayalas' 93.26-percent stake in Pure Foods to avoid conflict of interest with other clients which buy San Miguel processed meat products. He said SMC felt it was not proper to enter into a business that would directly compete with the operations of its own customers.

Asked whether Ayala planned to hold on to the Burger King franchise or consider its sale to another group if there was a good offer, Lazaro said: "We have to wait until the transaction with SMC is completed. That's the only time we'll determine what to do with the company."

Burger King is one of the fastest growing quick service restaurants in the country. It posted a 43-percent growth in sales last year.

Philking said it was necessary to open up more outlets to achieve a critical mass and that any restaurant chain would have to open at least 100 branches before it could be prudent to embark on heavier advertising activities.

The company currently controls only less than 10 percent of the P50-billion fast food restaurant market in the Philippines.

The company aims to capture at least the number three position in this segment, next to Jollibee and McDonald's, within the next five years. This means that its market share would have to go up to 20 to 25 percent.

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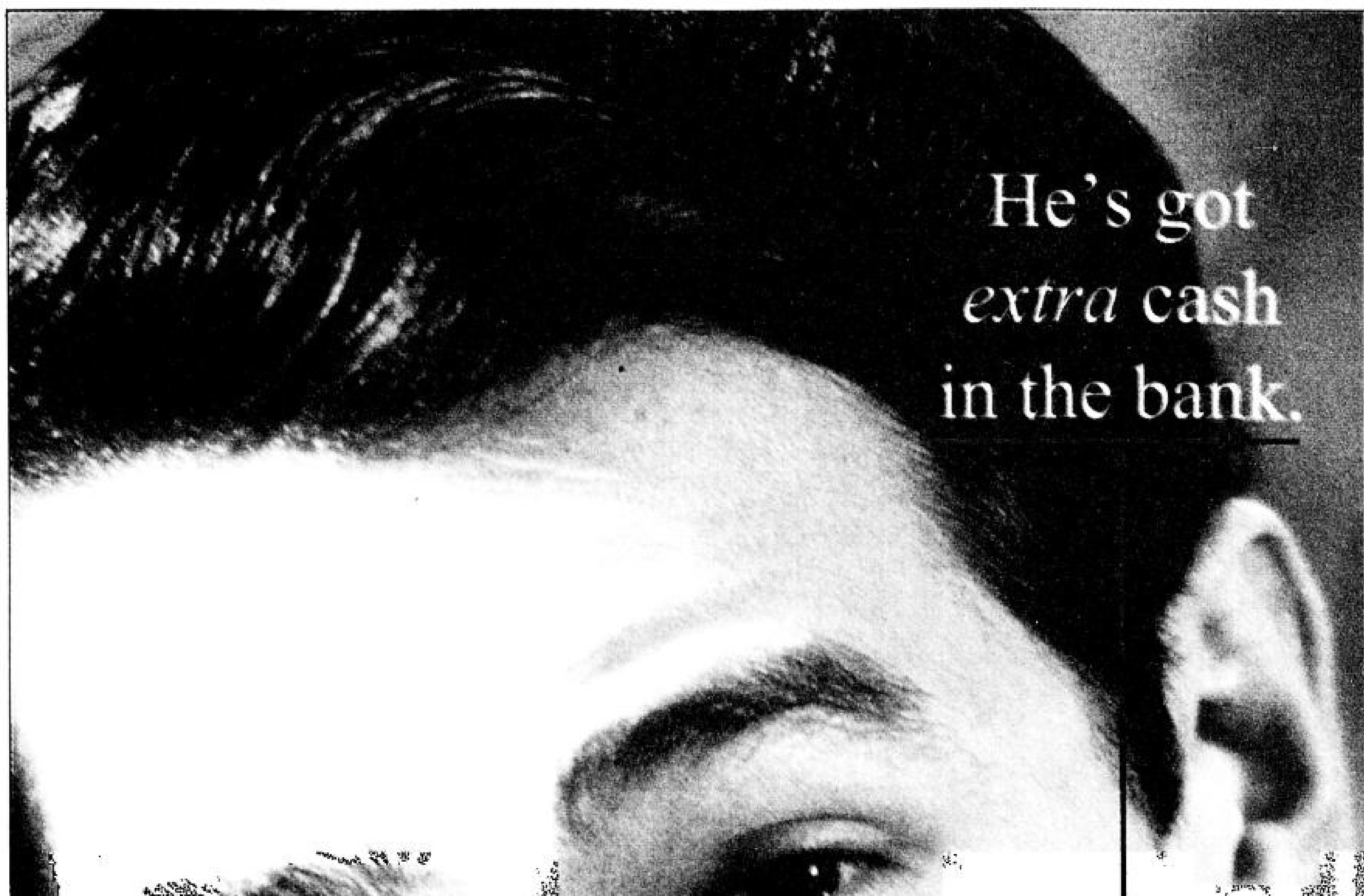
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# DFNN to do business in China

By Doris C. Dumlao

TECHNOLOGY upstart Diversified Financial Network or DFNN.com aims to gain a formidable foothold in the huge mainland Chinese market with the establishment of an offshore joint venture with Chinois-Net (BVI) Ltd.

The joint venture with the Chinese group was finalized even ahead of DFNN.com's reported deal with the Mittal group of India for the establishment of DFNN.com India.

The joint venture in India was put on hold as the competitive environment had changed. The Mittal group and DFNN are currently redeveloping DFNN India's business plan.

Singapore-based DFNN International Pte. Ltd. DFNN's wholly owned subsidiary, signed the joint venture agreement to form DFNN Chinois (BVI) Ltd. The joint venture is 42 percent owned by DFNN International.

DFNN Chinois was created to cater to the financial markets of China, initially Shanghai and Shenzen. DFNN Chinois will offer multi-channel trading software and contents as well as web-hosting and maintenance services. DFNN's online stock trading software has already been customized to suit the Chinese equity markets.

The Philippine Stock Exchange is trading at an average of $8 million a day. The average trading volume in Shanghai amounts to approximately $1.2 billion a day, while Shenzen trades an average of about $1 billion a day, approximately 250 times and 200 times respectively larger than the trading volume in the Philippines.

"We need to be in markets that have the critical mass to generate the trading volume of an ASP (application service provider)," DFNN president Ben Tiong said.

"We should expect positive contribution from DFNN Chinois starting the last quarter of this year," DFNN CFO Dickson Co told the INQUIRER.

DFNN.com is a Philippine-based ASP, financial e-commerce solutions provider, financial portal and a pioneer in online stock trading. It listed on the local stock exchange late last year.

The Chinois and Mittal ventures form part of the company's planned series of expansion into the region. After China and India, DFNN.com is planning to form similar joint ventures in Thailand and Indonesia.

The company, which expects to chalk up profits after three years of operations, said it opted to expand its operations in Asia because it did not want to rely on the local market in generating and sustaining a healthy revenue stream.

**HERITAGE PARK OFFERING**

The Development Bank of the Philippines and the Bases Conversion Development Authority signed recently underwriting and issue management agreements for the offering of 4,151 Heritage Park reserve investment certificates consisting of lawn, garden and estate lots in the former Fort Bonifacio military complex. Signing the agreements are BCDA vice president Victor Zablan, DBP first senior vice president Armando Samia, BCDA chair Rogelio Singson, DBP president & chief executive officer Remedios L. Macalincag, and BCDA executive vice president Isaac Puno III.

# Ecozones post 63% growth in investments

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority reported yesterday that first quarter investments in the country's economic zones grew by 63 percent on the back of the resurgence of investor confidence in the country.

Peza data showed that total investments rose to P15.12 billion from January to March this year from P9.298 billion during the same period last year.

There were a total of 60 projects registered by Peza during the quarter which are expected to generate over a billion dollars in annual export earnings.

The bulk of the investments were infused for the expansion of existing projects which reached a total of P7.292 billion in the first three months this year from P3.744 billion a year ago.

The first quarter figures are in line with Peza's forecast of double-digit growth rates for investments and exports this year as business confidence rebounds with the change in administration. Peza expects investments to jump by 20 percent to P88.87 billion and exports to climb by 15 percent to $23.029 billion this year.

# PLDT acquires Stradcom

By Anthony O. Alcantara

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. said yesterday it would acquire a 22.5-percent stake in computer firm Stradcom International Holdings Inc. as part of its information technology expansion strategy.

In a news release, PLDT said its e-commerce unit, ePLDT, had agreed to spend $12 million to acquire convertible redeemable preferred stock in SIHI equivalent to 22.5 percent of the firm's issued capital.

Under the deal, ePLDT will purchase redeemable preferred stock in SIHI that can be converted into 22.5 percent of SIHI's total issued and outstanding common stock.

ePLDT managing director Ray Espinosa said in an interview SIHI's computerization project with the Land Transportation Office was a big project that would complement ePLDT's goals.

"It's consistent with our mandate to invest in businesses based on IT," he told the INQUIRER.

He explained that the preferred stock could be converted into common stock within six years from the date of issue or upon the closing of the $12-million deal.

"I still can't say when we would close the deal. It will depend on meeting some corporate requirements," he said.

The investment arm of the World Bank, International Finance Corp,, agreed to provide SIHI with a $12-million loan and would acquire convertible preferred shares equivalent to 15 percent of the firm's issued capital.

SIHI is the parent company of Stradcom Corp., which has an agreement with the government to carry out the nationwide computerization of the Land Transportation Office.

ePLDT is also negotiating with SIHI for the possible provision of business recovery solution services through ePLDT's Internet Data Center called Vitro.

e-PLDT is the principal corporate vehicle for Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s Internet, e-commerce and multi-media businesses.

Early this year, e-PLDT invested P200 million to set up a new e-business security system company called mySecureSign Inc., which would basically help companies and organizations do business over the Internet securely.

mySecureSign will be the certification authority for the issuance of digital certificates or signatures that have already been recognized by the Philippine e-commerce law.

The digital certificate or signature ascertains the identity of a person, for example, with a public or private encryption code to ensure authentication and privacy between networked users.

With mySecureSign's technology, online transactions will be made as secure as paper transactions.

ePLDT also holds a majority stake in call center company Contact World. It also has a 51-percent stake in e-yellowpages.ph, which provides online directory services; a 45-percent stake in Mind Stream Inc., which is into IT education; and a 20.5-percent stake in B2B portal BayanTrade.com

It also has formed a partnership to launch Visa Cash smart cards or digital money cards.

# PAL to lease 3 Boeing 737

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc. plans to lease for five years three Boeing 737-300 aircraft—one for its own use and two for sub-leasing to its affiliate, domestic carrier Air Philippines.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, PAL said that two of the Boeing aircraft would be sub-let to Air Philippines for five years while the third B737 would be used by PAL for two to three years to meet capacity requirements.

Both PAL and Air Philippines are owned by taipan Lucio Tan.

PAL, saddled with P100 billion in debt and is currently under rehabilitation, explained it needed a 10th B737 to take advantage of the emerging opportunities in the regional charter market.

PAL aims to offer extra section flights, ad hoc and longer-term charter flights and test new routes before opening regular scheduled operations to these new routes.

PAL also wants to mount a three weekly long-term charter for the new Manila-Kaoshiung-Cebu route, which the flag carrier estimated would add aircraft utilization by 1,254 hours per year and an estimated $12,000 per roundtrip in margin.

The new B737 is also expected to help PAL maintain a high on-time performance by avoiding numerous flight delays and cancellations arising from mechanical breakdowns and the grounding of aircraft as experienced last year, the flag carrier added.

PAL pointed out that the lease of the three aircraft would allow the company to save on integration costs as the three aircraft were similar to PAL's other aircraft.

## INCOME REPORTS

### FHC 2000 net at P1.09B

FIRST Philippine Holdings Corp., a holding firm with interests in power generation and distribution, yesterday said it had recorded a net income of P1.09 billion on revenue of P10.74 billion in 2000.

The company had changed its fiscal year last year to full year ending Decembe, from the previous 12 months ending June.

In the 12 months ending June 30, 1999, the firm recorded a net income of P2.55 billion on revenue of P8.17 billion.

The firm is a unit of conglomerate Benpres Holdings Corp.

Shares of First Holdings yesterday slid 25 centavos to reach P23.25. *Reuters*

### FLI Oct.-Dec. profit falls

PROPERTY firm Filinvest Land Inc. yesterday said it registered a net income of P25 million on total income of P172 million in the three-month period ending Dec. 31, 2000.

The company did not give comparative figures. Last year, it had reported a net income of P186.97 million in the same three-month period in 1999 on total income of P409.16 million.

Shares of the company, a unit of Filinvest Development Corp., slipped 12 centavos to reach P2.10. The property index was down 6.27 points or 1.1 percent to 563.78 points. *Reuters*

### Ionics posts P1.9B income

IONICS Inc. posted an audited consolidated net income of P1.9 billion and P7.51 billion in consolidated sales last year.

Last year's income represented an eight-fold jump from the P200 million it registered in 1999. It included the gain amounting to P1.58, billion from the initial public offering of Ionics EMS at the Singapore Stock Exchange in the first quarter of 2000. Excluding this gain, earnings totaled P3.16 million, still up by 58 percent from the previous year's level.

Ionics chair and CEO Lawrence C. Qua said sales last year more than doubled in 2000 from the P3.63 billion in the previous year on the back of increased orders from existing customers, additional orders from new clients and a marked shift of its operations to turnkey manufacturing mode.

Ionics, he added, put in place its business-to-business (B2B) Information Technology infrastructure and other logistics services to enable it to better serve the needs of global electronics companies.

The Department of Trade and Industry cited Ionics as among the top electronics companies in the country last year.

Last year, global electronics giant Philips awarded the company's Singapore listed subsidiary Ionics EMS Inc. the contract to produce up to 10 million units of re-writable CD (CD-RW) drives yearly and named it as a global supply chain partner The Ionics CD-RW plant produced about 250 thousand units in 2000.

"Ionics, through its business ventures, is committed to making the Philippines an electronics manufacturing services hub and to increasing the value added and local content of the electronics sector while expanding to other markets," Qua explained.

Last year, the company bagged a $150-million contract for the production of telecommunications equipment for ECI Telecoms of Israel.

# PDIC gets only 1 rehab offer for Urban Bank

By Clarissa S. Batino

NONE of the five groups expected to submit proposals to rehabilitate Urban Bank Inc. showed up Monday night, leaving a group of small depositors, in tandem with the Export and Industry Bank, as the lone "white knight" for the shuttered lender.

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Norberto Nazareno said only the National Association of Urban Bank Inc. and Urbancorp Investments Inc. Depositors and Creditors, or Naud, with financial backing form the ExportBank, submitted a bid to rehabilitate Urban Bank.

The PDIC had expected big names like Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., International Exchange Bank, Robinson's Savings Bank, US-based venture firm Newbridge Capital Inc., and a consortium of Urban Bank's three largest depositors to tender offers to rehabilitate Urban Bank. None of them showed up during the auction.

Persons familiar with the matter said these groups might have felt that they had nothing to gain from a merger with Urban Bank or that Urban Bank was too deeply mired in legal problems that buying into the bank would not be worth the trouble.

An official said ExportBank offered to infuse P300 million in fresh capital into Urban Bank while 10 percent of some P5 billion in deposits collectively held by Naud would be converted into equity.

ExportBank and Naud said they would also seek some P1.5 billion in assistance from PDIC to re-open Urban Bank's 28 branches.

Urban Bank declared a holiday on April 26 last year. That same day, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shut the bank down. The bank pointed to massive withdrawals reaching P4 billion five weeks prior to its closure as the main reason for its liquidity problems. Government regulators later found out that Urban Bank's liquidity problems were really caused by the decision of its top officials to buy P4.6 billion worth of "trash receivables" from Urbancorp Investment Inc., a fact that preliminary investigations showed was hidden from the bank's directors and depositors.

# Gov't, Go family . . .

(From page B1)

Go Pailian as chair of the bank.

The 15 directors elected yesterday were Vergara, Go Pailian, Garcia, Nañagas, Antonio Go, John Go, Frank Go, Genevieve Go, Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Luz Generoso, Roberto Malonzo, Martin Conway, Ricardo Leong, Horacio Templo, and Ricardo Capulong.

Garcia said the Go family was only entitled to five board seats equivalent to its 30-percent stake. GSIS is entitled to a board seat with its 12.5-percent stake while SSS is entitled to four with its 23-percent interest.

In the same stockholders' meeting, the bank announced that net income last year fell to P638.1 million from an earlier announcement of unaudited earnings of P1.05 billion.

Vergara said provisions for bad loans pulled down the bank's earnings last year.

## Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, April 17, 2001)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Banco Filipino Sav & Mort | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 90 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 69.5 | 69.5 | 69 | 69 | 23,200 |
| Chinatrust Comm. Bank | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 6,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 48 | 48 | 47.5 | 47.5 | 21,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 216 | 220 | 214 | 215 | 44,600 |
| Prudential Bank | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 50 |
| Philippine National Bank | 46 | 46 | 45.5 | 46 | 25,900 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 17.5 | 17.75 | 17.5 | 17.75 | 105,000 |
| FINANCIAL SERVICE | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.48 | 1.5 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 122,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1180 | 1185 | 1180 | 1185 | 1,690 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 19,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 910 | 930 | 910 | 930 | 2,480 |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | | | | | |
| COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 38.5 | 38.5 | 34 | 34 | 64,100 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 550,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 650 | 690 | 650 | 690 | 600 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.044 | 0.044 | 0.044 | 0.044 | 2,500,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 705 | 705 | 705 | 705 | 2,310 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.044 | 0.047 | 0.044 | 0.046 | 189,900,000 |
| POWER & ENERGY | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 42 | 42 | 41 | 41 | 54,400 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 58 | 58.5 | 56 | 56 | 461,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1,500,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 20,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 3,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 1.2 | 1.22 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 4,614,000 |
| CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 200,000 |
| Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 1,000,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 0.92 | 0.95 | 0.92 | 0.95 | 90,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 12.5 | 12.75 | 12.5 | 12.75 | 299,600 |
| La Tondena Distillers Inc. | 30.5 | 30.5 | 30 | 30 | 125,800 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.94 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 1,160,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 46 | 46.5 | 46 | 46.5 | 21,200 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 51.5 | 51.5 | 51 | 51 | 3,400 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 15,093,000 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 100,000 |
| HOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.4 | 7.6 | 119,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 88,000 |
| Alliance Global Group Inc. | 12.25 | 12.25 | 12 | 12 | 1,200 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.46 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 63,000 |
| Balabac Resources & Hldgs | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 20,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.44 | 1.46 | 8,554,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 230,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1 | 1 | 183,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 23.75 | 23.75 | 22.75 | 23 | 90,200 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 1,440,000 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 100,000 |
| J.G Summit Holdings Inc. | 1.96 | 1.96 | 1.94 | 1.94 | 80,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 90,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.49 | 0.49 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 490,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 410,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 1,070,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 10,000 |
| MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING | | | | | |
| Interphil Labs Inc. B | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 20,000 |
| Music Corp. | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 40,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 100,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 900,000 |
| Pryce Corp. | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 150,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 62,000 |
| HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.43 | 0.44 | 2,050,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 150,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 20,000 |
| Philippine Racing Club | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 10,000,000 |
| BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 38 | 38 | 33.5 | 33.5 | 341,700 |
| Equitable PCI Bank-War | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 603,000 |
| Jollibee Warrants | 12.25 | 12.25 | 12.25 | 12.25 | 8,000 |
| Omico Corporation Warrant | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 8,000,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 2,100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series T | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 1,200 |
| PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10 | 10.25 | 3,900 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series V | 10 | 10.25 | 10 | 10.25 | 200 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series X | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 200 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 2,700 |
| Waterfront Phils-Warrant | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 1,000,000 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 1,495,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 250,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 1,350,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 2.22 | 2.22 | 2.06 | 2.1 | 12,316,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 1,379,000 |
| Universal Rightfield Prop | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 200,000 |
| MINING | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 0.006 | 0.006 | 0.006 | 0.006 | 5,000,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 20,000 |
| Polar Mines & Dev't Corp. | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 5,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 190,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.185 | 0.185 | 0.185 | 0.185 | 1,020,000 |
| OIL | | | | | |
| Imperial Res | 0.018 | 0.025 | 0.018 | 0.025 | 200,000 |
| Interport Res. | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 4,000,000 |
| Interport Res. B | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 8,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 8,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0044 | 0.0044 | 0.0044 | 0.0044 | 3,000,000 |
| South China Resources Inc | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 120,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 300,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE (P) |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 371,010 | 19,855,840.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 254,461,810 | 205,075,470.00 |
| PRO | 16,990,000 | 44,682,460.00 |
| Mining | 11,230,000 | 324,200.00 |
| OIL | 23,620,000 | 176,500.00 |
| GRAN TALS | 306,672,820 | 270,114,470.00 |

| AVERAGES | | |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fi | 592.65 | DOWN 0.78 |
| Comm'l & Ind | 1,947.67 | DOWN 15.64 |
| PRO | 558.99 | DOWN 11.06 |
| Mining | 1,078.25 | DOWN 1.09 |
| OIL | 1.56 | DOWN 0.02 |
| All Shares Index | 717.68 | DOWN 0.13 |
| Composite | 1,435.68 | DOWN 18.16 |

NO. OF ADVANCES. 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 36; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 35; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 90; NO. OF TRADES: 1,852

## CURRENCIES

April 17, 2001

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.126634 | 1.000000 | 50.0860 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.010206 | 0.009059 | 0.4022 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.617395 | 1.435600 | 71.9035 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.144457 | 0.128220 | 6.4220 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.633861 | 0.562615 | 28.1791 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.721461 | 0.640369 | 32.0735 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.622278 | 0.552334 | 27.6642 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.574696 | 0.510100 | 25.5489 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.988577 | 2.652661 | 132.8612 |
| Kuwait | Dinar | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.300411 | 0.266645 | 13.3552 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.622278 | 0.552334 | 27.6642 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000105 | 0.000093 | 0.0047 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.024734 | 0.021954 | 1.0996 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.306742 | 0.272264 | 13.6366 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000847 | 0.000752 | 0.0377 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.887600 | 44.4563 |
| Germany | Mark | 0.511292 | 0.453823 | 22.7302 |
| France | Franc | 0.152450 | 0.135314 | 6.7773 |
| Netherlands | Guilder | 0.453780 | 0.402775 | 20.1734 |
| Austria | Schilling | 0.072672 | 0.064504 | 3.2307 |
| Belgium | Franc | 0.024789 | 0.022003 | 1.1020 |
| Italy | Lire | 0.000516 | 0.000458 | 0.0229 |
| Finland | Markka | 0.168188 | 0.149284 | 7.4770 |
| Portugal | Escudo | 0.004988 | 0.004427 | 0.2217 |
| Spain | Peseta | 0.006011 | 0.005335 | 0.2672 |
| Luxemburg | Franc | 0.024789 | 0.022003 | 1.1020 |
| Ireland | Punt | 1.269739 | 1.12702 | 56.4479 |

## VOCAL MINORITY

# ADB seeks common ground with NGO foes

HAUNTED by rising anti-globalization protests, the Asian Development Bank is seeking a common ground with a vocal minority that is seeking greater rights for the underdog.

As governors of the 59-member ADB head to Honolulu, Hawaii next month for their annual meeting, the bank is fine-tuning policies to address the concerns of the lobbies of nongovernment organizations that espouse a wide range of human rights and environmental causes.

The hosts are preparing for protests against the supposed evils of increasing economic integration.

Since violent anti-globalization demonstrations derailed the World Trade Organization talks in Seattle in 1999, they have become a part of most major international gatherings.

Anti-capitalism protests hounded ADB's last annual meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand last year.

"The ADB has always been in consultation and dialogue with NGOs in order to strengthen our ties with NGOs," ADB president Tadao Chino told Agence France Presse in an interview.

"I believe that ADB and the NGOs, at the end of the day, have the same goal—that of an Asia-Pacific region free of poverty, so I hope we can have a constructive relationship with NGOs."

The ADB has commissioned a review on the ecological and public health impact of a $750-million wastewater treatment project in the Thai province of Samut Prakarn, for which the Manila-based bank lent $230 million.

The environmental group Greenpeace had challenged the viability of the project as the mussel-farming community of Klong Daan complained of air pollution and the effects of the treated wastewater on the sea.

Several NGOs are agitating to disrupt the May 9 to 11 Honolulu meet.

A coalition called the ADBwatch is planning a week of protests from May 5 over onerous conditions the bank supposedly tied to loans. The ADB lent $5.8 billion to developing member countries last year.

The ADB has a "record of imposing destructive and oppressive policies, projects and programs on communities throughout Asia and the Pacific," the group said, without citing specific cases.

The bank set up an NGO center at its Manila headquarters last month, and its top executives expect to hold dialogues with NGO counterparts in Honolulu.

But the bank is standing firm on its lending policy, which encourage members to embrace market-oriented reforms, transparent governance and conservation of natural resources.

"Many Asian economies, particularly in eastern and southeast Asia, have achieved high economic growth rates and succeeded in reducing poverty by choosing outward-oriented economic policies as part of the globalization process," Chino said.

"Some are now important players in modern sectors like IT, while those low-income Asian countries that did not follow outward oriented policies have not done so well and are home to a large number of Asia's poor." *AFP*

**LAST** minute tax-filers wait in line inside the US Post Office in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, Monday morning for their turn to post tax returns before the midnight deadline. This post office extended their hours to accommodate the steady stream of customers.
AP

# China's economy grows by 8.1% in Q1

BEIJING—China's economy gained 8.1 percent in the first quarter over the same period a year ago as local companies were helped by a massive spending spree by the government, an official report said yesterday.

While economic growth between January and March was slightly higher than many economists had expected and beat a 7.4-percent increase in the fourth quarter of last year, analysts warned the momentum was unlikely to be sustained throughout the year.

"The government won't necessarily have more money to pour into the economy," said Chen Xingdong, chief economist with BNP Prime Peregrine in Beijing. "The first quarter growth figure is probably going to be the high for the entire year."

As China prepares to enter the World Trade Organization, the Chinese government is struggling to maintain relatively high economic growth to prevent massive unemployment and possible social unrest.

The Chinese government yesterday credited itself with the performance of the first quarter, pointing to policies to lift growth by pouring funds into the economy and give state enterprises money to upgrade plant and equipment.

"The most important factor contributing to growth in the first quarter was the series of policies adopted by the Chinese government to expand domestic demand," Qiu Xiaohua, deputy director of the statistics bureau, said at a news conference in Beijing.

Investment by state enterprises increased 15.1 percent in the first quarter, and their purchases of new machinery and other equipment pushed production in China's heavy industries to a 13.4-percent growth.

Other government policies aimed at boosting demand at home, including successive interest rate cuts and salary increases, appeared to have made a smaller impact.

Retail sales, the main indicator of private consumption, increased 10.3 percent in the first quarter, roughly the same as in the first quarter of 2000.

Exports in the first quarter increased 14.7 percent from a year earlier, better than many economists had expected earlier in the year but not enough to make a clear contribution to the economy.

"Demand from abroad might be reduced this year, but domestic demand will pick up the slack, supporting economic growth," said Qiu, the statistics bureau deputy.

The trade surplus in the first three months was about 9 percent lower than the year before, and the trend could continue in the months ahead, according to BNP Prime Peregrine's Chen.

"A moderation of consumption had been expected, and it's not a major concern at the moment," he said. "The main concern could be net exports and how they impact (on) the overall economy."

China attracted $8 billion of foreign direct investment in the first quarter, an increase of 12 percent from the year before, and an improvement from last year, when foreign investment saw virtually zero growth.

"Foreign direct investment is mainly by multinationals that expect a liberalization of the business environment after China gains access to the WTO," said Andy Xie, a Hong Kong-based economist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. *AFP*

# Malaysia seen heading for recession

KUALA LUMPUR—The Malaysian Institute of Economic Research yesterday lowered its economic growth forecast for 2001 to 4 percent from an earlier forecast of 5 percent as it reported a plunge in business confidence.

The independent think tank said business conditions weakened during the first quarter, with its Business Conditions Index dropping 6.9 points to below the pivotal 50-point level.

The Consumer Sentiment Index also fell sharply.

"Both MIER business conditions and consumer sentiment surveys show a steep drop in confidence," MIER said in its latest quarterly report.

"The BCI slid to 46.3 points, crossing the 50-point benchmark, a sign that the economy may be heading for a major slowdown, while the CSI fell by a significant 9.9 points to 105.7 points, slightly above the threshold of 100 points." *Reuters*

# Southeast Asia automotive sales override slump

SINGAPORE—New vehicle sales in Southeast Asia's four biggest markets rose 19 percent in the first two months of the year despite the regional economic slowdown, an industry monitor said yesterday.

However, signs of an impact on consumer confidence were starting to emerge which might hurt sales in the coming months, Automotive Resources Asia Ltd. said in its latest report.

Total new vehicle sales in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand totaled 144,579 in January and February, up from 121,384 a year ago.

The Indonesian market was the most aggressive, with sales improving 34 percent to 39,017. Malaysia improved 24 percent to 57,172 while Thailand showed a more modest 13-percent increase to 36,704.

In the Philippines, sales rose slightly in February, but were down 16 percent for the year at 11,686 units after an uncertain January during a political crisis that climaxed with a military-backed civilian uprising that ousted then President Joseph Estrada.

"Though total sales in the first two months of this year grew impressively from last year, the region's economies remain on shaky grounds," said Automotive Resources associate Chabaphrai Srinont.

"We see the depreciation of the yen and (Southeast Asian) currencies taking its toll on consumer confidence and fear this may negatively impact on sales in the coming months," he said.

"On the other hand, the intense regional market situation, with automakers competing hard for market share, is working to stimulate regional new vehicle sales." *AFP*

# Business remains gloomy over economic outlook

CANBERRA, Australia—Business confidence has slumped to levels not seen since Australia's last recession 10 years ago, according to a new business survey.

"The glimmer of hope for the start of a recovery as indicated by the January and February surveys had been blown away by the March slump," Dun and Bradstreet economic consultant Duncan Ironmonger said in a statement released late Monday.

The influential analyst's survey for the three months ending June 30 shows that business expectations over almost all indicators have slid since the three months ending March 31.

"Actual growth in sales, employees, profits and capital investment are now likely to be at least as bad in the June quarter as in the March quarter," Ironmonger said.

The survey's indices of sales expectations, profit growth and employee numbers were all in negative territory, at levels not seen since the 1990-1991 recession, he said.

The pessimism among businesses follows news last month that the economy contracted 0.6 percent in the last three months of 2000.

Consumer sentiment has also plunged despite three interest rate cuts by the central bank over the past three months in an attempt to breathe life into the economy.

The survey also showed businesses struggling with the new goods and services tax introduced in July last year. *AP*

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INQUIRER

# Bleak beginning to key US earnings season

NEW YORK—Banks, a major airline and a technology bellwether gave a gloomy start to one of the most important earnings reporting weeks in recent memory on Monday.

Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc. and Continental Airlines Inc. were among several US companies producing downbeat earnings scorecards for the first quarter, while Cisco Systems issued a new profit warning that was likely to hit stocks on Tuesday.

Diversified industrial manufacturer Eaton Corp. was among others that reported lower results, though some companies, such as distributor WW Grainger, eked out modest increases.

"It's the worst reporting season for the first quarter in our history," said Ozan Akcin, an equity strategist for global markets at financial data company Thomson Financial.

The first-quarter earnings season goes into high gear this week, with some 1,000 companies set to post financial results. Many of those have already joined the chorus of gloom in weeks past, warning investors of disappointing profits or sales and announcing layoffs in a bid to cut costs, a reflection of slowing US economic growth.

Internet gear giant Cisco Systems said third-quarter earnings would miss forecasts and that it would lay off a total of 8,500 workers. Cisco, which made the announcement after the close of the regular session on Nasdaq, fell nearly 8 percent to $15.85 after-hours trading from $17.2 at the close.

"It clearly looks like a down opening," said Stephen Bartholow, managing director at Carret and Co., which oversees $2.1 billion. "Cisco is the bellwether of Nasdaq and (its comments) throw gasoline on the fire."

Research firm Thomson Financial/First Call said as of last week, 1,226 companies had pre-announced results, with 844 companies, or 69 percent, warning they would miss Wall Street's estimates. This compared with 162 firms, or 43 percent, out of 380 companies giving guidance in the corresponding period of last year.

"That's a huge increase," said Akcin, citing new Securities and Exchange Commission regulations that required companies to unveil important news to all investors at the same time.

"It is due to the Regulation FD, or fair disclosure, that is coming into play, because companies have to come out now and announce everything to everybody at the same time, but it is also due to the economic fundamentals."

For the latest quarter, 200 companies, or 16 percent of the total, have said results will be on target versus 108, or 28 percent, last year, while 182 have said they will beat estimates, or 15 percent of the total, compared with 110, or 29 percent, in the first quarter of 2000. This does not include any companies that have warned since then.

Flagging a weak open Tuesday, the Nasdaq-100 after-hours indicator was down about 2 percent at one point based on trade in the tech-laden Nasdaq's biggest stocks.

"We'll find out tomorrow to what degree the ugliest warnings season that I can remember serves to reflect what is going to be a very poor earnings season," said Bill Meehan, chief market analyst at Cantor Fitzgerald.

Bank of America, the third-largest US bank holding company, posted a 17-percent drop in quarterly profits to $1.87 billion, hurt by bad loans and losses on investments.

Continental, the No. 5 US airline, said quarterly earnings sank nearly 36 percent to $9 million as business travel purchases weakened amid the slowing economy.

Citigroup reported a 7-percent fall in operating profits as investment losses and weak revenues from advising companies on new stock offerings chipped away at earnings.

More bad news came from Eaton, which said earnings sank sharply because of difficult operating conditions. The company also announced that it would cut 600 jobs over the next three months. But it said it was still comfortable with projections for its full-year results.

Looking forward, some strategists said most of the bad news was already out, and conditions would start to improve. Yet, others saw the earnings pain likely to continue into other quarters this year. *Reuters*

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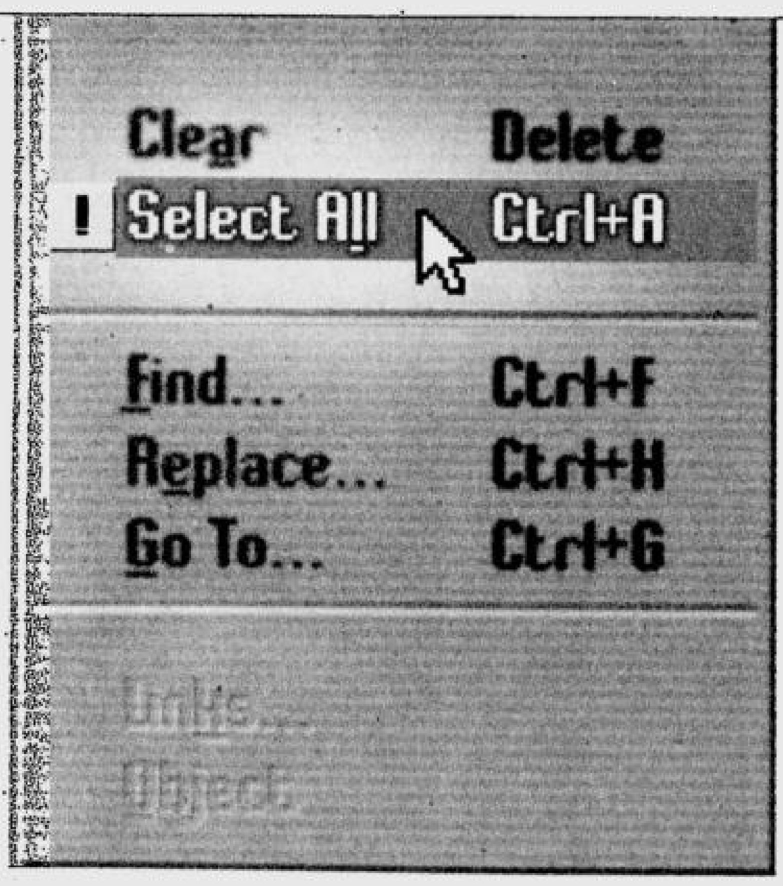

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# Q1 GDP data to show US economy on edge

WASHINGTON—Although gloom about the US economy has mounted in recent weeks amid ballooning layoffs and sliding stock prices, most analysts believe the numbers don't add up to a full-blown recession yet.

However, experts warn the world's biggest economy remains in a danger zone and if it does manage to escape a recession, it won't be by much.

"The numbers would suggest that the economy has avoided recession thus far," said Lyle Gramley, a former Federal Reserve governor.

"But whether we will continue to avoid it in the future is a much more open question. My guess is we could but I wouldn't put big odds on that," said Gramley, who is now a consulting economist at the Mortgage Bankers Association.

Chief economist Sohn Won Sung of Wells Fargo Bank agreed. "It's still a high-wire act we are walking, between a soft and a hard landing."

Many economists are focused on the Commerce Department's "advance," or early estimate, of first-quarter gross domestic product, slated for release on April 27.

Since many economists loosely define a recession as two straight quarters of a contraction in GDP, the first tell-tale sign of such an event might come if GDP were to show an outright decline.

The Commerce Department has said already that fourth quarter GDP was positive—the economy grew at a meager one-percent pace, a huge slowdown from the scorching 8.3-percent rate it recorded in the fourth quarter of 1999.

A Reuters poll of a limited number of economists showed that, on average, they projected a growth rate of 0.6 percent for the quarter ended in March.

In the Reuters poll, a couple of participants, including Deutsche Bank and Thomson Financial, projected a slight decline in first quarter GDP. But the majority of the participants thought the number would make it into the plus column.

A broader Reuters poll of first-quarter GDP forecasts will be released on Friday.

Earlier this month, Robert McTeer, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, said first quarter GDP would probably be "somewhere close to zero, maybe a little above or a little below."

The Fed has cut interest rates by an aggressive 1.5 percentage points so far this year and is expected to reduce them further in an effort to keep the economy growing.

Fed Chair Alan Greenspan has offered few public remarks lately about the economy, but most of his Fed colleagues have played down the recession threat.

St. Louis Fed president William Poole, for example, said the odds of a recession were one in four. "I don't think it's the best bet," he said.

But Bear Stearns economist John Ryding put the odds at closer to 50 percent.

"We have extremely slow growth. If we are still growing, we are just flying above the tree tops," he said.

Although Ryding said the consumer spending data now available indicated that first quarter GDP would be positive on the whole, he said it was plausible that the economy slipped into a recession in March, a month in which non-farm payrolls declined a sharp 86,000. *Reuters*

# Miyazawa says Japanese bond market won't crash

TOKYO—Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said yesterday he saw no prospect of a collapse in the Japanese government bond market following a warning from a former top finance ministry official.

Former Vice Finance Minister Eisuke Sakakibara, previously known as "Mr. Yen" for his influence on the Japanese currency, said Japan could face a financial crisis triggered by a collapse of the government bond market between June and August this year.

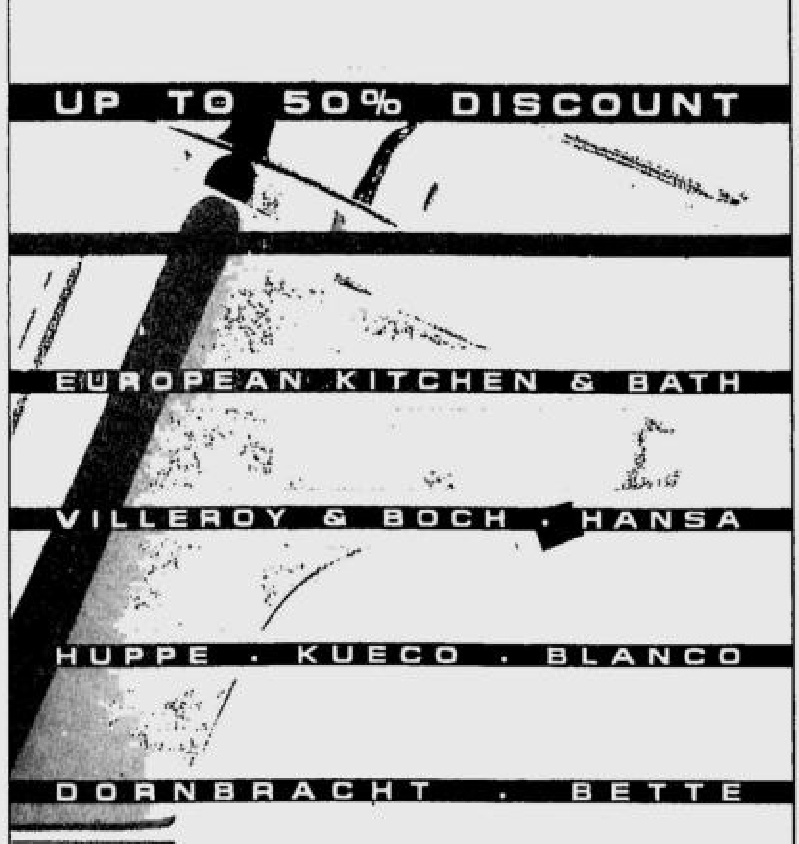
"There is a high possibility that a financial crisis will surface sometime between June and August, especially on the Japanese government bond market, and stock prices may also fall below 12,000 points again," Sakakibara told a local television station at the weekend.

However, Miyazawa denied there was any likelihood of a collapse in the bond market.

"I am not concerned about the government bond market because the market currently shows no signs of trouble," he told a regular press briefing.

"Corporate demand for funds is still low and stock prices are not high. This means money will have to go to the bond market, so there is no worry," Miyazawa said.

Sakakibara said a crisis could be caused by problems faced by the government in implementing its recently announced economic stimulus package and a serious economic downturn in the United States. *AFP*



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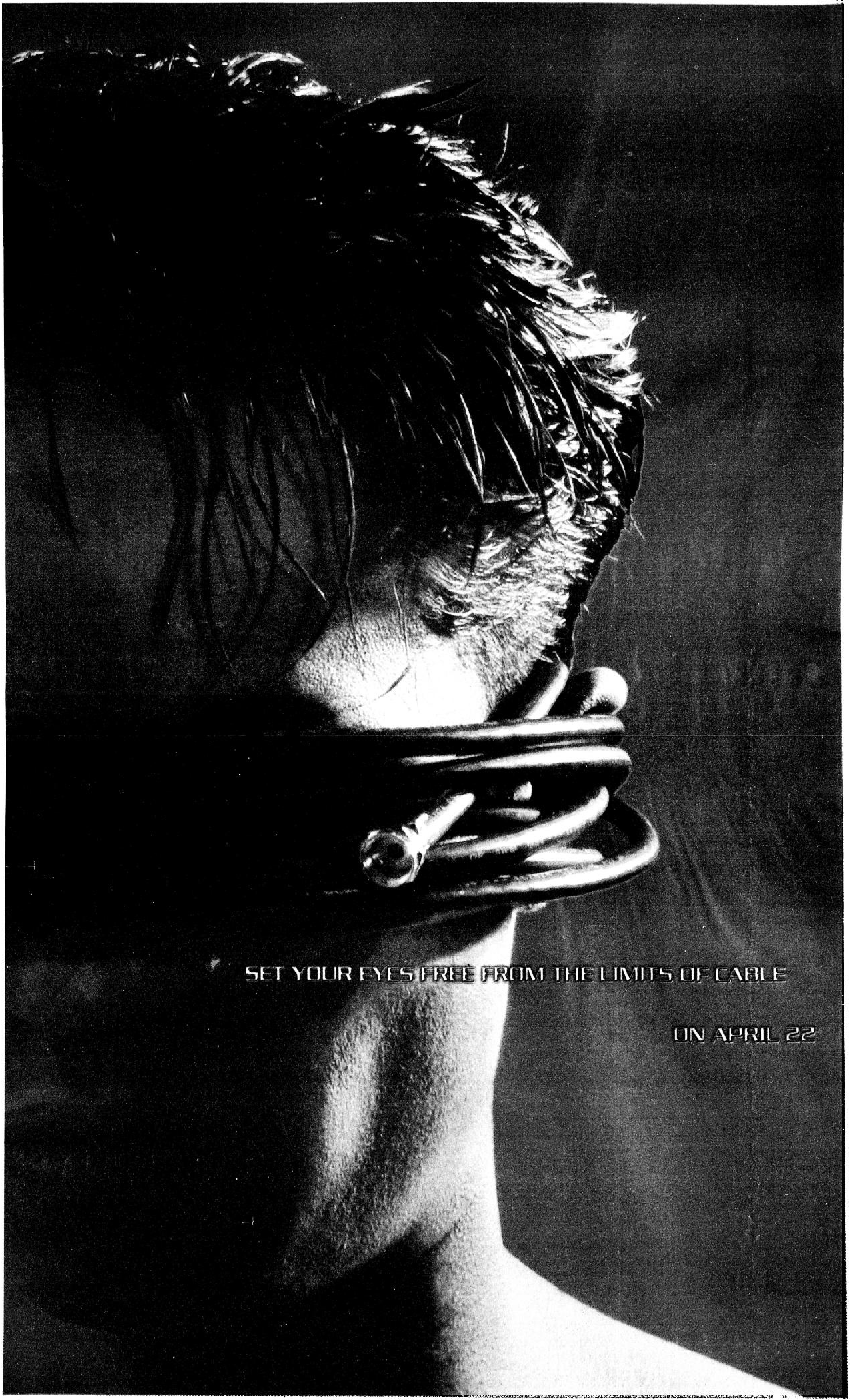
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### AUCTION SALE

NATION Pawnshop, Inc., Poblacion, Meyc. Bulacan will sell all unredeemed pledges of Oct. 2000 on April 2001, 10 am. *Lanuza & Sons - Auctioneer*

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the later Rosita Jimenez Bernabe has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 235 ; Page No. 47; Book No. XVII ; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Fernando T. Collantes of Pasig City ( PDI- April 18, 25 & May 2, 2001 )

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NORBERTO OSIDO has been extrajudicially settled w/ sale by his heirs as per Doc No. 420; Page No. 84; Book No. X; Series 2001 before Notary Public Elcid Fajardo of Pasig City. (PDI-Apr.11,18 & 25, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Wilfredo R. Villegas has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per doc #5 page #1 book #VIII series of 2001 before notary public Eddie Fernandez of the city of Mandaluyong (PDI-April. 4, 11, 18, 2001)

### PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pray for us.
Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus for favor granted.

USA EMPLOYMENT-DIRECT HIRING
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(ACROSS GREENBELT MALL)
NURSES: SIGN UP + RELOCATION BONUS
BRING BIO-DATA, COLORED PICTURE (2X2) IN UNIFORM
PRC DIPLOMA/LICENSE & OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS
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**Pangasiwaan Sa Pagpapaunlad Ng Kalakhang Maynila**
**(Metropolitan Manila Development Authority)**
*"Tapat na Serbisyo sa Bagong Milenyo"*

**INVITATION TO BID**

The government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance the implementation of the Metro Manila Air Quality Improvement Sector Development Program, it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be used to pay for eligible contract for the supply and delivery, installation and commissioning of equipment under the project.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) now invites interested parties to pre-qualify and bid for the items listed below at the following schedule.

| PACKAGE | QTY. | PARTICULARS | DATE | TIME (Bid Opening) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| XI | 2 units | Computer Server | April 30, 2001 | 2:00 p.m. |
| XII | 25 units | Desktop Computer | April 30, 2001 | 2:00 p.m. |

Interested parties may obtain further information from, and acquire the proposal documents at the office of the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, MMDA Building, EDSA cor. Orense Street, Guadalupe, Makati City.

A complete set of proposal documents may be purchased by interested parties starting **April 18, 2001** to **April 23, 2001** upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the above office and payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P1,000.00), in Cash or Manager's Check payable to MMDA.

Pre-bid Conference will be held on **April 25, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, MMDA Building, EDSA cor. Orense Street, Guadalupe, Makati City.

The MMDA Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive the defect therein and also to accept such bids which will be most advantageous to the government. The decision of the MMDA Committee on Awards is final and binding.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO D. MEJOS**
*BAC-Chairman*

(PDI – April 18, 2001)

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# INQUIRER TRiViA

By **BONG BARRAMEDA**

## Starbucks

***Q.*** What is the Starbucks logo all about?

***A.*** The logo of the coffee chain was based on a 16th-century Norse woodcutting of a two-tailed mermaid, a creature of strength and power, common in medieval adventure tales. The company's name itself is a combination of an old Northwest Pacific mining town called Starbo and Captain Starbuck, the coffee-loving first mate in Herman Melville's novel *Moby Dick*.

**For the Record.** Decaffeinated coffee was developed in 1903 when a German coffee importer, Ludwig Roselius, turned a batch of sea water-ruined coffee beans over to researchers. Although not the first to remove caffeine, they perfected the process of removing caffeine from the beans without destroying any flavor. He marketed the coffee under the brand name "Sanka" (a contraction of the French phrase "sans caffeine"). Sanka was introduced into the US in 1923. However, credit for the first successful removal of caffeine from coffee beans goes to a German chemist named Runge who extracted caffeine from beans in 1820 after his friend, the famous poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, asked him to figure out what it was in the coffee that was keeping him up at night.

***Past Forward.*** This day in 1906: The most damaging earthquake in U.S. history devastated San Francisco. The quake lasted for 47 seconds, buildings collapsed, fires broke out, and underground water mains were destroyed. The final toll: 400 people died, four square miles burned, and $500 million worth of damage.

**WORD WATCH**

**Perwisyo** : from the Spanish *perjuicio*, "harm, damage, injury."

PDI – April 18, 2001

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**ARIES B. ESPINOSA**, Assistant Editor

# People, Events & Products

E-MAIL: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

## Stonegrill 100% mad-cow free

STONEGRILL Restaurant recently assured its loyal patrons, particularly steak connoisseurs, that it only serves beef entrées that are absolutely safe from the dreaded mad cow contamination.

"We would like to inform everyone that the food they eat at Stonegrill is way too far from the mad cow onslaught. Our meat is guaranteed safe and fresh. They can expect a truly hearty meal that is healthy up to the last bite," Snow Mariano, Stonegrill restaurant manager announced.

Mariano explained that Stonegrill sources most of its beef from Australia, which is why it is completely unaffected by the spread of the mad cow disease.

Meat said to be infected by the harmful animal ailment is known to have originated from European countries such as Great Britain, Ireland, Belgium, Denmark France, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Germany.

Besides serving only Australian meat, Stonegrill complies with the strictest beef specification in identifying the source of yearling beef. Moreover, all the meat and seafood supplies are always stored in the best condition. Supplies are chilled, not frozen. "In this way, the natural nutrients and juiciness of the meat is preserved," Mariano stresses.

Stonegrill frequenters may continue to relish their favorite juicy and tender beef steaks while stone grilling, an interactive and unique concept pioneered by the Australian restaurant wherein diners can cook their own food over a preheated volcanic stone.

"And now we are offering our guests an alternative with regards to cooking their food. They can now have their entrées cooked already to their desired doneness," Mariano said.

Another gastronomic development is that the delightful Norwegian Salmon Fillet is back, only this time it is served cooked.

Meanwhile, the grilled-to-order steaks are already a staple in every Stonegrill menu.

NOKIA INKS AGREEMENT WITH PMSI

Nokia Home Communications, the business unit of Nokia which develops and manufactures satellite TV reception equipment, satellite receivers and multimedia terminals, and the Philippine Multi-Media Systems Inc. (PMSI), the first Filipino company to deliver direct-to-home entertainment, delivers the Dream Broadcasting System, the country's first digital TV broadcasting. Photo shows Martin Fernandez, general manager of Nokia Home Communications (extreme left) next to Manuel Abellada, president of PMSI during the ceremonial switching-on of the Dream Broadcast Center facilities.

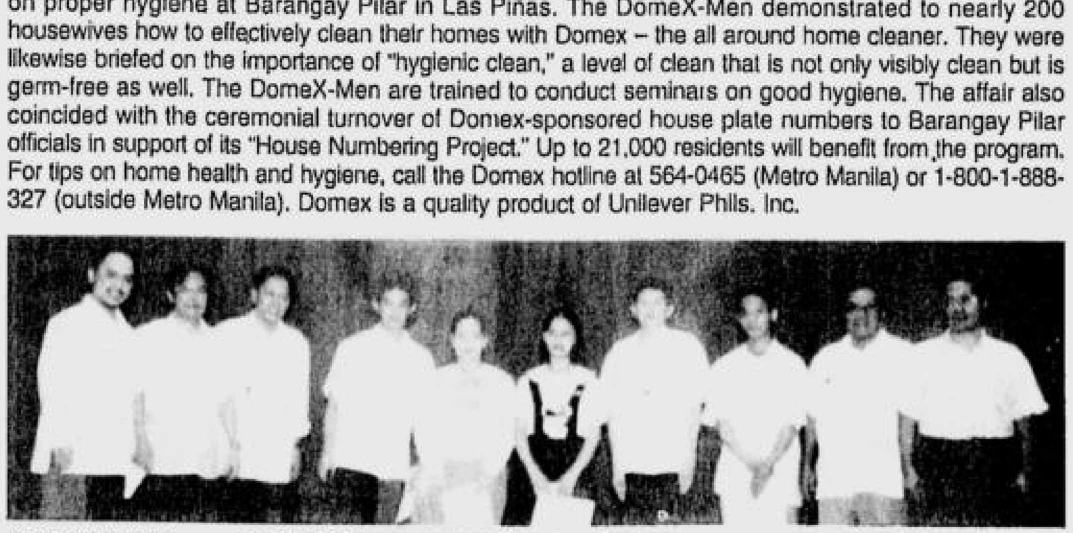
## Manila YWCA to launch institute

THE YWCA of Manila Development Institute will be launched through the training of the first batch of young women who would be the international association's future board members, executive directors, staff and volunteers. The institute as envisioned by the present board will be the venue for leadership training and continuous studies on women's rights, responsibilities and empowerment in preparation for national and international leadership.

Following are the criteria for the first batch: Filipino, single, college graduate, 21-30 years of age, with leadership qualities and good moral character, with or without YWCA work experience, and willing to undertake a 5-day live-in training.

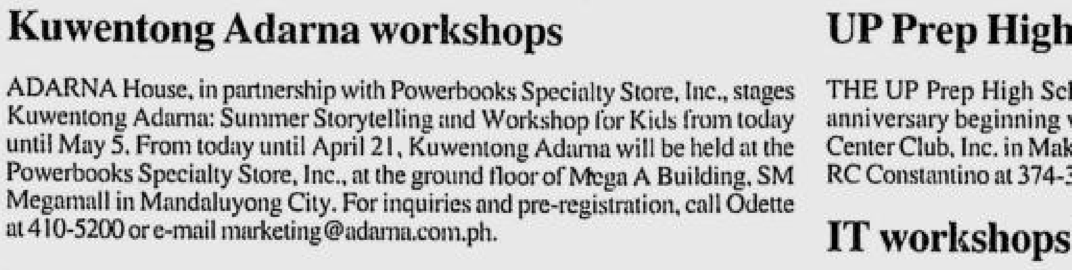
This will cover orientation on YWCA objectives and activities, leadership formation, national and international issues, women's rights and roles. Highlight is the formulation of a program plan of action.

For inquiries, call Leonie Aranda at YWCA of Manila headquarters at 1144 General Luna Street, Ermita, Manila at 525-6065 or 523-6513.



HOUSE NUMBERING PROJECT

Housewives and their husbands show off their Domex samples after the Unilever-sponsored workshop on proper hygiene at Barangay Pilar in Las Piñas. The DomeX-Men demonstrated to nearly 200 housewives how to effectively clean their homes with Domex – the all around home cleaner. They were likewise briefed on the importance of "hygienic clean," a level of clean that is not only visibly clean but is germ-free as well. The DomeX-Men are trained to conduct seminars on good hygiene. The affair also coincided with the ceremonial turnover of Domex-sponsored house plate numbers to Barangay Pilar officials in support of its "House Numbering Project." Up to 21,000 residents will benefit from the program. For tips on home health and hygiene, call the Domex hotline at 564-0465 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-1-888-327 (outside Metro Manila). Domex is a quality product of Unilever Phils. Inc.



ORATORICAL CONTEST LAUNCHED

The first Ricardo Cardinal Vidal 2001 Youth Oratorical Contest with the theme "Moral Ascendancy of Politicians" was held February for the semifinals–North Division. The project is the brainchild of the Federation of PTAs of Catholic Schools in Cebu City (FPTACC) under the stewardship of Federation President Bert Migriño and VP Mel Libre. The first Ricardo Cardinal Vidal 2001 Youth Oratorical Contest semifinals-North Division was held at the University of San Carlos Cultural Center, Cebu City. Shown in photo are (from left) Mel Libre, contest chair; Bert Migriño, president, Federation of PTAs of Catholic Schools; Major General Santos Gabison, retired Viscom commander, chair of judges board; Sheila Lacia, first place from USC–Girls High. Roberto Baniel and Dr. Efren Valiente (rightmost), past president of Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, were contest judges.

## Boost to Philippine e-Commerce

AS e-commerce rapidly changes the Philippine business environment, two of the leading frontrunners in e-commerce have recently entered into a partnership agreement with the goal of developing a stronger e-commerce network in the area of procurement and delivery.

Mitsui & Co., Ltd., Japan's leading trading house and Access Manila, the parent company of e-2-door.com, the Philippines' first and only online procurement and delivery service, recently signed a share holding agreement for the subscription of Access' shares.

With its vast business network, Mitsui & Co., Ltd., has ventured into the e-commerce business. Seeing the potential that e-commerce will bring to the Philippines and neighboring countries in the next few years, Mitsui & Co., Ltd., (Manila) sought to partner with Access Manila, whose procurement and delivery portal www.e-2-door.com has had outstanding success since its launch last October. E-2-door's young and dynamic team is now strengthened by the participation of a global trading conglomerate, which will assist its regional expansion scheduled later this year.

## MSA reviews ongoing

MSA Tutorial and Review Center holds review classes for Upcat and other college admission tests. Classes are held in Prince David Condominium in Katipunan, Golden Crescent Mansion in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Vista Verde Executive Village in Cainta, Filinvest Homes East in Antipolo and at the MSA Academic Advancement Institute at 315 Katipunan Road, Quezon City. For inquiries and schedule of reviews, call 435-6062 or visit MSA.

BITS Clips

### Music, art workshop

THE SPORT Psychological Training, Consultancy and Research Center (SPTCRC) will conduct a National Seminal-Workshop on Music, Art and Physical Education from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 18 to 20 at the Environmental Education Center in Miriam College, Katipunan Road, Quezon City. The keynote message will be delivered by Dr. Eugenia Moraleda, chief of the curriculum development division of the DECS. Dr. Leticia P. Ho, dean of the College of Education of UP, will deliver a lecture on multiple intelligences.

### Philam Foundation seminar

THE PHILAM Foundation, the social development arm of the Philam Group of Companies, is co-sponsoring with Venture for Fund Raising a seminar on fund management for financial sustainability for NGOs and the non-profit sector. Participants will discover how to use fund management for their organizations' long-term stability and review key concepts in fund raising. The seminar will be held today, April 18, 2001. For details, call Rica Alejandrino-Lane at 885-8785 or 634-8889.

### Workshops for kids

THE CENTER for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra) offers workshops for kids and teens this summer. At 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on April 19, 24 and 26, Bing Veloso conducts the Dreamcraft workshop for 6- to 12-year-olds. The course is an exploration of art and movement, which will lead the child to explore and expand the imagination. Chacra is at 144 B. Gonzales Street, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For inquiries, call Chacra from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays at 426-5368 and 434-5381, or e-mail at chacra@netgazer.com.ph.

### Pryce Plans' Cebu national caravan

Plans, Inc. will hold its 11th annual National Caravan of Elite Entrepreneurs today, April 18 to 21 in Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City. The caravan is a convention of PPI's aggressive sales associates who market the company's educational and pension plans to individuals and corporations nationwide. Pryce Plans has been in the pre-need industry for 13 years with active marketing associates affiliated with 50 branches nationwide.

### Kuwentong Adarna workshops

ADARNA House, in partnership with Powerbooks Specialty Store, Inc., stages Kuwentong Adarna: Summer Storytelling and Workshop for Kids from today until May 5. From today until April 21, Kuwentong Adarna will be held at the Powerbooks Specialty Store, Inc., at the ground floor of Mega A Building, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. For inquiries and pre-registration, call Odette at 410-5200 or e-mail marketing@adarna.com.ph.

### Pespa congress in Cebu

THE PHILIPPINE Elementary School Principals' Association (Pespa), in coordination with the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) and the Bureau of Elementary Education (BEE) holds its 3-day third Principals Congress at the Grand Convention Center of Cebu, Banilad, Cebu City starting today. Education Secretary Raul S. Roco will be the keynote speaker.

### UP Prep High grand reunion

THE UP Prep High School class of 1961 is celebrating its 40th graduation anniversary beginning with a grand reunion on April 19 at the Architectural Center Club, Inc. in Makati City. For inquiries, call Visconde Tan at 532-4562, RC Constantino at 374-3193, or Pol Moral at 826-4717.

### IT workshops in Miriam College

Miriam College, in cooperation with Eduquest, Inc., offers workshops on Web Page Design and Development and Electronic Art and Animation this summer. Both workshops are open to students, professionals and interested individuals familiar with Windows. Both workshops will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon from April 19 to 21, and April 23 to 26 at the College Computer Lab C of Miriam College. For inquiries, call Orly Oropeza or Ellen Villasquez at the College Coordinator's Room or Ellen Jose of the VPAA office at 927-2421 to 31, locals 263, 204 or 288.

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Nothing that is remembered fades and no one
who has touched a heart truly passes away...

In loving memory of the
Sixth Death Anniversary
of

## Luz Puyat Martel

April 18, 1995

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO<br>Forbes Park | 6:15 a.m./<br>6:00 p.m. | ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH<br>Pasay Road, Makati City | 6:00 p.m. |
| BACLARAN REDEMPTORIST CHURCH<br>Parañaque | 6:45 a.m. | IMMACULATE CONCEPCION CHAPEL<br>Quezon City | 6:00 p.m. |
| ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH<br>Reposo, Makati | 6:30 a.m. | ASSUMPTION PARISH<br>Leveriza, Manila | 6:15 p.m. |
| STA. CRUZ CHURCH<br>Sta. Cruz, Manila | 1:00 p.m. | HARRISON PLAZA CHAPEL<br>Malate, Manila | 5:30 p.m. |
| SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE<br>Greenhills, Mandaluyong | 6:15 a.m. | OUR LADY OF SORROW<br>F.B. Harrison, Pasay City | 6:00 p.m. |
| SAN VICENTE DE PAUL CHURCH<br>San Marcelino, Manila | 12:00 n.n. | ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH<br>Quiapo, Manila | 6:00 a.m. |
| STA. MARIA GORETTI PARISH<br>U.N. Avenue, Manila | 6:00 p.m. | MANILA CATHEDRAL<br>Intramuros, Manila | 7:30 a.m. |
| OUR LADY OF EDSA SHRINE<br>Ortigas, Pasig City | 7:00 p.m. | ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIQUORI PARISH<br>Humabon Place, Makati City | 6:15 p.m. |

Her family kindly requests all readers to remember her
in their prayers.

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## EDUARDO MACEDA ABAD

June 14, 1961 – April 16, 2001

*His dearest wife **NANETTE**; children **ENA** and **JED**; relatives and friends request to rejoice with us at his return to our Creator and to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.*

*His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City.*

*Cremation will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park Crematory after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.*

Dear Daddy,
How are you there? Are you fine daddy?
I miss you so much. Daddy thank you for taking
care of us. And thank you for the gifts you
gave me. I wish you'll always be beside me.
And pls take care of me even if youre not here.
Daddy I love you very very much
Love,
Ena

Dear daddy,
Thank you for all the [illegible]
and [illegible] you gave me [illegible]
always [illegible]
[illegible] love you very much

---

Our Dearly Beloved Mamang

## ANTONIA "NITANG" MONTALES

June 12, 1917 - April 15, 2001

Her bereaved children and spouses JUN and Glenda, NORMA and Nilo, LINA and Bruce, BOBBIT and Michael, BOY and Lita, VICKY and Leslie, and BAMBI, grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the International Funeral Homes, Rizal Avenue. Interment will be on Thursday, April 19, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. at North Cemetery, Manila.

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*The parents, family, relatives and friends announce with unbearable sorrow the untimely demise of*

## Maj. General FELIX V. DUEÑAS Jr. (Ret.)

May 30, 1944 - April 15, 2001

He was

**Consultant to the Office of the Secretary of National Defense**
**Consultant to the Office of the Chief of Staff, AFP**
**Acting Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP**
**Deputy Chief of Staff, J-5, AFP**
**Acting Chief of Staff, J-5 and C/S PAF**
**Administrator, Philippine Coconut Authority**

*His remains lie in state at the St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp E. Aguinaldo.*

Cremation at the Loyola Crematorium, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City, will follow after the 12:15 P.M. Mass on Wednesday, April 18, 2001.

---

Our dearly beloved mother

## JUANA MENDOZA NICDAO

of Malasiqui, Pangasinan

*Peacefully joined our Creator on April 13, 2001 at 7:20 p.m.*

Her husband **Alfredo Sr.** (†); her children **Fred**, **Ben**, **Joe**, **Dodit**, **Cora** and **Jimmy** and their spouses **Tess**, **Mimi**, **Baby**, **Kalet**, **Nida** and **Glo**; her grandchildren **Lani** and **Carlo**, **Ritchie** and **Onid**, **Jayrex**, **Prexy**, **Benjo** and **Liberty**, **Rhia**, **Aika**, **Jeri**, **Meng** and **Ernesto**, **Jolette**, **Justinne**, **Cheryl**, **Aurea**, **Joyce**, **Kitt**, **Kristine**, **RJ**, **Claire** and **Jansen**, and **John Alfred**; her great-grandchildren; her siblings; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Nicdao Family Residence in Malasiqui, Pangasinan.

Interment will be at the Catholic Cemetery, Malasiqui, Pangasinan on Saturday, April 21, 2001 at 8:30 a.m.

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*The PMA DIMASUPIL Class of 1967*
*is in deep sorrow for the death of a dear classmate*

## MGEN FELIX V. DUEÑAS Jr. (MNSA) (Ret.)

*peacefully joined our Lord on 15 April 2001.*

His wife **Geraldine (Hedy)**; children **Paul Eric (Dondi) Gretchen Marie (Nyen-Nyen)** and **Jessamine Anne (Jaymee)**, and his parents **Col. & Mrs. Felix P. Dueñas Sr.** (Ret.) and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Ignatius Pro-Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Cremation at the Loyola Crematorium, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City, will follow after the 12:15 P.M. Mass on Wednesday, April 18, 2001.

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## ANGELITA MEDINA CRESPO

Peacefully joined her Creator
on Good Friday, April 13, 2001.

Her bereaved surviving sister Nening, brothers Nene (†), Nono (†), Luisito (†) and Tony (†), sister Titina (†), sisters-in-law Mati, Pinky, Lulu (†) and Barbara, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains was cremated last Sunday at the Loyola Crematorium and her ashes will be buried at the San Agustin Crypt after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros on Thursday, April 19, 2001.

Tel. Nos. 895-3209/890-5779.

---

## SOLEDAD BUGARIN JOVEN

**Retired Public Teacher**
**of Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija and Quezon City**

*Passed away in the Grace of the Lord on April 16, 2001.*

Her bereaved children **Fernando & Soc**, **Marissa & Fausto**, **Julius & Lucy**, **Izel & Bert**, **Lilet & Gerick**, **Amy & Mon**, loving parents **Ruperto** (+) & **Soledad**, brothers, sisters and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, April 21, 2001 at Himlayan Pilipino after the 8:00 a.m. Mass

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***"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."***

*2 Cor. 5:4-5*

***"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."***

*2 Cor. 5:8*

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# Troubled gov't employee seeks options

By Tita Datu Puangco

**YOUR column is a great help to people like me who experience difficult situations at work. It is not only enlightening but also encouraging and motivating. I have gained much insight about how I could be better at work.**

**I am 28 years old. I have been working in a government agency for two years now. Typical of government agencies, we have employees who would rather gossip and chatter than be busy at work. I take offense over their lack of consideration, making so much noise during office hours while a minority of us tries to do decent work. My boss tolerates this and this makes me depressed because this has become the norm at work.**

**Sometimes our office becomes the extension of the homes of my officemates. They bring some of their household chores to office. My boss brought his pet dog to live in the office. We also have a few cats to feed.**

**I am thinking of getting a new job outside the government. The problem is it would take time to find a job. Is there a way I can keep my morale and confidence up? How should I be spending my time when I know I no longer want to work in that office? I have also lost respect for the people I work for.**

**Troubled Government Employee**

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

It is unfortunate that even with the People Power Revolution 2, the typical government culture prevails. When governments around the world are talking about world class governance to support globalization, we continue to have a laid back government culture that has not caught up. From my consultant's viewpoint, changing your agency culture could present a very interesting reengineering case study. What would be some of the levers of change? It may probably be the leadership or the performance management system. Or maybe the culture or the mandate of the agency needs fixing. It may also be a combination of all these interventions.

### Opportunities

Based on your letter, I can see that you have decided that there is extreme difficulty in trying to manage change at a systems level, considering your particular situation and position. So the question you rightfully ask is: what should you do to keep your morale and confidence up? What initiatives can you pursue, looking at the opportunities rather than the problems inherent in the situation? Congratulations for taking this proactive rather than reactive stance.

In the early years of my career life, I worked in a government media agency, where there was little structure and process. I worked hard and smart, living and innovating within the constraints of the system. As I met and led idealistic young people along the way, we did not allow the bureaucracy to suffocate our creativity. But at that time we had a very good natural leader who recognized our potential and gave us space to grow. Today, I remember those memorable and enriching moments. Clearly looking at the upside with a sincere desire to contribute enabled us to surmount barriers.

### Career planning

If I were to put myself in your situation today, I would do the following actions. First, do career planning. Take stock of your competencies, your strengths and weaknesses. For example, based on your letter, we can see that you have the gift for expressing yourself in writing. Then, try to develop a career vision. What do you want to pursue in terms of work? Are you attracted to a stable career where one moves purposively up a hierarchy? Or does entrepreneurship or setting up your own business or project appeal more to you? What are the values you are looking for in a future company or agency that you would want to join?

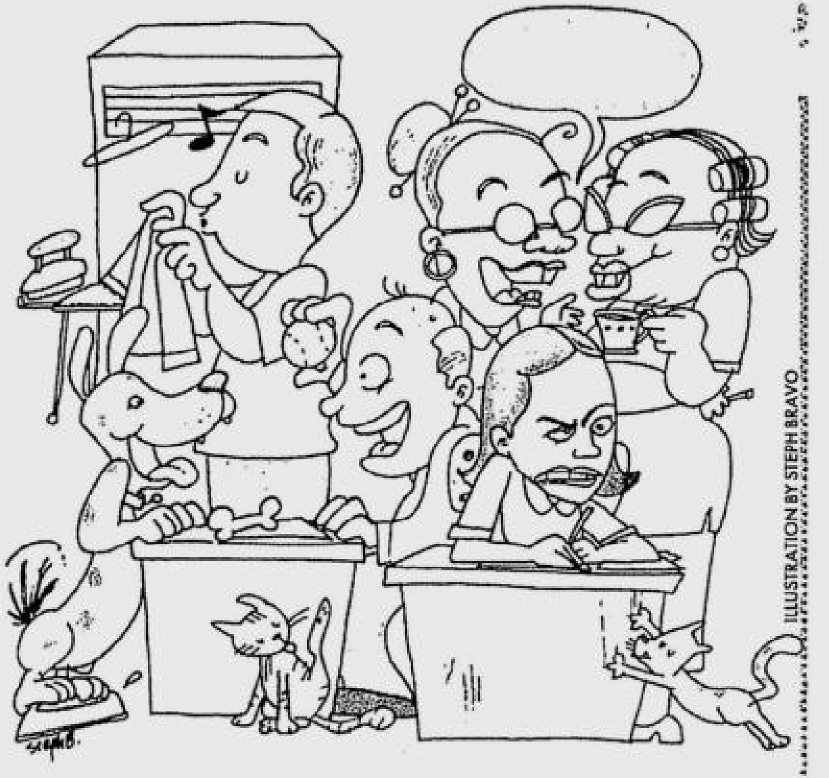
Second, make a list of your network—people you know who can tell you about possible job vacancies. Write your resume and distribute it widely. You might also want to check out the job ads in the Inquirer or send a copy through the Internet to web based search companies.

Third, you might want to pursue graduate studies after work. Many of our staff find great fulfillment pursuing their studies after work. Our company benefits from their wider perspectives and more positive mindsets. You can take advantage of the light workload to study and enhance your credentials. This is a better use of time compared to effort spent on gossip and intrigues.

### Maximize stay

Fourth, maximize the time you have left with the agency. Why don't you try to be a force for positive change within the agency? One way is through your positive example. Learn how to concentrate amidst the din and the noise. Try to develop your own time structure to make this happen. For example, come very early or stay a little late to do your thinking work. You might want to do meditation before you begin work. This will allow you to gain a positive mindset and prepare you to better handle the stresses you will encounter during the day.

Then, develop friendships by trying to be interested in the people working with you. You will soon realize that you can do something to influence them to uplift the culture of the agency and make it more productive. I believe there are many capable and competent people in government who would be eager to contribute and develop themselves in the process. All the best and keep your spirit up.



*(Ms Puangco is the CEO and President of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to:* ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

# Check your time log

RECIPES *for* LEARNING

*By Moje Ramos-Aquino*

HAPPY Easter! Among the many milestones in our Christian faith, Easter is the most significant. Holy Week is the best time to be in Metro Manila—no traffic, very quiet, not many people, *Pabasa ng Pasyon* in practically all *barangays*. The place is also relatively clean because there are not many people eating in the streets and throwing away their garbage. Many sidewalk vendors have also gone on vacation. It is one of those rare moments that Manilans are truly happy to be at home. So, how did you spend your Holy Week?

### Feedback

The one and only e-mail I got last week came from reader Honorato A. Santos and it is worth printing here. "As I read your article ('Pray so you can hear God,' April 11), I was amazed but not completely surprised at the similarity of the method of meditation you described and the one rediscovered by Fr. John Main, OSB, who calls it 'Christian Meditation.' I think meditation is a prayer with no particular religion. If you have not heard or wish to know more about this, please give me your mailing address and I will be more than happy to send you a copy of a small pamphlet titled 'Christian Meditation: Your Daily Practice' by Fr. Laurence Freeman, OSB, a follower of Fr. Main.

"Our Meditation HQ is housed in the 2nd floor of the Benpres Building on Meralco Avenue. There are also several meditation groups meeting weekly in various venues in Metro Manila. I belong to the EDSA Shrine group meeting on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. I wish you more power as you try to spread this almost forgotten and nearly lost form of prayer."

As we continue to hear Mass and relentlessly bombard the gates of heaven with our recitation of the rosary, our countless novenas and devotionals and other traditional prayers, every now and then, let us also spend time listening to God through meditation. You may join the group of Mr. Santos at Benpres.

### Time Log

Back to our future, let's carry on with our "Workshop on How to Handle Our Time to Accomplish our Life Plan and Enjoy Life in the Process."

Two weeks ago, we asked you to list down your activities minute by minute, hour by hour every day on a Time Log Form (TLF). If you have not done that yet, you may do it this week. Then, we will proceed with gathering more data and organizing these data for our analysis later. As for now, don't do any analyzing yet. Read your TLF and enter more data as you continue to recall or do things.

I know that you could do or did a thousand and one things in a week's time. Please include every single bit of activity or inactivity that you engaged in. Please account for every second and minute of your time. If you were or are at home, include lull moments, *tunganga* time or mindless munching of *chichiria* or junk food, trips to the toilet, hours of sitting in front of the television set or the computer with occasional movements to and from the refrigerator, texting, dealing with an insistent itinerant vendor, short trips to the corner store and other such activities. If you were or are in the office, include lull moments or, *sige na nga*, meditation or thinking time, trips to the little girl's/boy's room, using your phone, greeting and making small talk and other activities.

After doing this, estimate or specify the exact number of minutes or hours that you spent on such activity. Take note also of the person or things involved in each activity. For example, when you used your phone, your boss, or when you played badminton, Ricky, and so on.

### Feelings

Then, write down how you felt during the activity. Examples of feelings are: happy, annoyed, angry, irritated, frustrated, bored, and the like. Being hungry is not a feeling; it is a condition. It is important to do this for your time analysis later on.

Now, organize your data. First, put together under the following headings (you may revise or add your own) your numerous and varied activities. Every single activity should be classified. Include total time spent on each activity.

- Career/Business – This category should include everything that contributes directly to the achievement of your work goals, e.g. writing a memo to sales (5 minutes), surfing the world wide web for materials on business etiquette (8 hours), skimming books and magazines for more materials (6 hours), preparing transparencies and handouts for a workshop (50 hours), etc.
- Family – This should include everything that directly cultivates and develops the lives, relationships and well-being of your family and family members.
- Spiritual – This should include everything that directly contributes to your spirituality and relations with God.
- Social Responsibility– This should include everything that directly makes you respond to the needs of your fellowmen and the environment.
- Relational – This should include everything that directly affects your social relations with others such as your friends, neighbors, community, etc.
- Personal – This should include everything that directly adds to the maintenance, enhancement and development of your very own knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and wellness physically, emotionally and mentally. Sleeping would fall under this heading.
- Circular File or Wastebasket – This should include things that do not mean anything at all or do not relate to the other categories above. When you read a newspaper and did not seem to remember anything you read afterwards, that reading time belongs to this heading. Pigging out on junk food or drinking liquor for the sake of drinking liquor belongs to this file.

### Gray areas

There might be some gray areas here, e.g. reading while you were in the car or bus or jeep. If you read an office report while you were commuting to your office and this helped you accomplish your work, then it should be classified under "career/business." If you read a magazine to while away the boring traffic and nothing substantial came from your reading, but you have to commute to and from your office just the same, then this should still be under "career/business." If you read a newspaper article that made you decide to send your used clothes and books to *Bantay Bata*, then put this reading activity under "social responsibility." This is where your feelings during the event or nonevent will help you classify your activity or behavior.

Another gray area is your telephoning and texting. If you used the telephone to discuss strictly business matters, then classify this time under "career/business." If that phone call helped you convey your sympathies to a friend who lost a loved one, put it under "relations." If you merely forwarded a text message because you found it funny or forwarding messages has become a habit or *trip lang*, that time belongs to your "circular file." If you talked to your son on the phone while you are at work because your son wants you to be the first to know about the job interview he had and that he finally got the job, that time belongs to "family" and you will never regret it.

I think we have enough activities here to keep you busy until next Wednesday when we will do some analysis of how well you use your time. In the meantime, enjoy what is left of the thrilling month of April and the refreshing showers that it brings.

### ASTD Updates

One interesting feature of this year's conference is the "Conferences-Within-a-Conference." There are six such conferences entitled Measuring and Evaluating Training and Performance, Creative Training Techniques, Consultant's Day, Business First, Practical Business Skills to Bolster HRD's Credibility and Influence and New Perspectives on Leadership. It is like attending seven conferences in one week. And they will all be held in Orlando, Florida, this June 3-7. Fabulous! Join the Philippine delegation organized by Paradigms & Paradoxes Consultants. Call Jenny or Adrian at 715-9332 for details.

### Elections

Get involved even before you vote. Do not allow anybody to post those ugly campaign posters on your property. There are legally designated areas for posters. Campaign for the candidate who is most deserving to be elected. *13-0 tayo!* Let us also help the party list of engineers and technical people, P.T.C.

*(Send feedback to* Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com.*)*

# Abbot is keeper of monks' souls

**(From page B12)**

does not confer instant holiness."

An abbot, according to Narciso, is a father, a teacher and a shepherd. The word abbot, he points out, is derived from the Greek abbas, which originates from the Aramaic "abba," meaning father. Yet, he is head of a unique family because it consists solely of sons ages 18 to 80 and sometimes older. "I am expected to look after them and to be aware of what's happening to them individually and collectively," says Narciso. Because the abbey is a "total institution," he must be no less than a total father.

An abbot is also a teacher. "I must be a teacher of wisdom and a teacher of discipline. I am expected to teach the monks certain doctrines. But words have to be supported by good example."

Having been an educator practically all his life, Narciso now finds himself teacher to an assembly of monks, a challenge he recognizes and accepts. "But being part of a community gives one a built-in support system," he allows. "My brother monks and I are headed in the same direction and we have the same goal."

Despite four decades of preparation—he had been a classroom teacher, a grade school and a high school principal, a college dean and lastly, a rector—Narciso realizes the formidable task he faces as a teacher to a group of monks with diverse characters and temperaments.

"A shepherd must steer and tend his flock," says Narciso. And an abbot is shepherd to his monks. "It's the shepherd's role to take good care of them, find those who are lost and bring them home. He must be ready and willing to give his life for his flock." Narciso remarks that Jesus Christ rightly refers to Himself as the Good Shepherd because He is vigilant and faithful to His flock and He died for them willingly.

Narciso thinks nothing of the glory inherent in the lofty position he presently occupies. "Actually, I'm known as Abbot-Chancellor. But this is mostly ceremonial," he volunteers, going on to say that although an abbot occasionally does full regalia like those worn by bishops, it is merely symbolic.

Like similar congregations, the Benedictine community he heads is autonomous. "Together with other Benedictine monasteries, we belong to the same body but we are not monolithic," explains Narciso. Their overall superior is the Abbot Primate in Rome, who acts as liaison with the Vatican. Each congregation also has an abbot resident based in Rome.

Aside from meeting all the requirements demanded of an abbot, Narciso feels his ability to listen can be invaluable.

This was confirmed by Rev. Dom Bernardo Ma. Perez OSB in his homily during Narciso's abbatial blessing ceremony. To paraphrase Perez, being a friend who listens, understands, encourages, counsels and empathizes is a role not alien to Narciso. For throughout his years in the monastery, he has tried to be a friend to all.

Said Perez, "It is as a friend that the abbot is more effectively father, teacher and shepherd and is more visibly a sign of God's love and care." And it is as a friend that Narciso leads and guides his sons, his brother monks.

# What are your secrets for networking?

WORKING WOUNDED

*By Bob Rosner*

**DEAR WW: Recently, I read that President Clinton keeps an index card with the name of every person he's ever met, going back to college. I've never put much energy into building up my Rolodex, but now I'm having second thoughts.**

**A Small Circle Of Friends**

My brother drove home the value of networking way back in high school. While most of his friends had really hot cars, Jay was stuck with a crummy old beater—and he was constantly scheming up ways to make it seem cooler than it really was. One of his less inspired efforts occurred during the summer. He decided that if he drove around all summer with his windows rolled up, his friends would think the car had air conditioning. He learned the hard way it's hard to look cool when you're constantly drenched in sweat.

That was the last time he thought that the way to stay on top is to take yourself out of circulation. So take a tip from Jay (as well as from President Clinton). Start building a network and you'll find that the support and insight it provides will amply repay the effort. For advice on how to do it right, turn to the best networker I've ever seen, Harvey Mackay. His latest book, "Dig Your Well Before You're Thirsty" (Currency, 1997) jams all the "do's" and "don't's" of networking into one easy-to-digest volume. I've adapted the following questions from it.

1. Does everyone in your network look just like you? Harvey says that if they do, you don't have a network, you have an anthill. A network should contain a rainbow coalition of races, religions, and regions of the country, as well as people who are young and old, nerds and non-virtuals, fast talkers and janitors, mucky mucks and secretaries. As a rule of thumb, remember: your stock portfolio isn't the only thing you should diversify.

2. Do you make more withdrawals than deposits? Networks, like bank accounts, should always maintain a positive balance. Don't just take from the people in your network; look for opportunities to give them something in return.

3. Are you including only people on their way up? If you want people to reach out to you when you're in trouble, you'll have to do the same for them. Follow the advice of management guru Garth Brooks: keep in touch with all your friends in low places. It's not only good strategy; it will make you feel good to help people in need.

4. Do you limit your networking to people who are highly visible and have fancy titles? To quote a cowboy I once met, every successful ranch needs a mix of show horses and workhorses. Your Rolodex needs the same.

My brother taught me many things while we were growing up (only some of them intentionally). But among his better lessons was this: while there are many ways a person can look cool, the best strategy is to stand by your fans.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: What song do you sing when it comes to networking?

—The In-Crowd, 10 percent
—Lonely at the Top, 25 percent
—I Get By With a Little Help From My Friends, 65 percent

Our winning networking strategy comes from Daniel in Palo Alto, CA. "Joining a public cause or charity is a great way to network. Not only do you satisfy your own needs for altruism, but you'll be surprised to find many people who could potentially be important to your life, career or business also involved in charity work."

*(E-mail feedback to* bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

# Welcome aboard!

By Dan Magallanes

YOU have your first or a new job. Welcome to the organization, says the human resources manager, as you are being introduced to the officers and employees of the company.

You are now facing a more challenging path—starting on the right foot, staying secure and growing stronger in your new job. But how do you do all these? Here are some suggestions.

### Low profile

During the first few weeks, keep a low profile. Don't present too many ideas on how things should be done based on your perception or management style. Listen and listen only.

Try to learn everything about your new job, the company's organizational structure, culture and goals. If your superior does not introduce you to the people you should know, then, introduce yourself to them. You need to know them in the exercise of your work. Remember that you need to know not only your new group's official management structure but also its "unofficial" power structure. Who are friends with whom? Who appear to be the advice givers and advice takers? You should also know the company's "heroes." He may not be the vice president or the manager. He or she can simply be the salesperson who broke the sales records or the tea girl who has been with the company for 20 years, having served the top honchos of Philippine businesses.

Talk to the company's old timers. Don't be ashamed to ask them what made them click with the organization, even during those times when others were losing their jobs. And if you are the new boss in the department, be warm with your subordinates. Licensed image consultant Valerie Cruz-Tapalla once said, "As a newcomer, you should not antagonize your new subordinates because you are a decent person and a good manager who knows how to treat people humanely." If you don't, they will feel bad towards you and not work well. You want them to work well and willingly, right?

### Think "owner"

You will grow stronger in your job if you will take an ownership attitude towards your job. This is regardless of whether or not you are a staff or a manager of the firm. Nurture the idea that you are not working for somebody else but for yourself. In this way, you will feel energized to do the job the way it should be done because you know that you will personally benefit from the successful performance of the company. This is your bread and butter. Otherwise, you should not be working for them for eight hours. This attitude will lead you to perform at your peak, which in turn will lead to your career advancement.

Be a "people" person. In any place or situation, people have to trust one another to promote a healthy relationship inside or outside the workplace. Many employees resign due to conflicts at work that arise from personality differences, and not because of lack of skills or competence. The company's training department is there to train you on the skills and competencies required for the job.

### Open communication

Maintain an open communication with everyone and with your boss. Be assertive enough to tell him if you cannot finish the task in his required timeframe. It is best to "under-promise" but "over-deliver."

Work smoothly with your fellow workers. If you have disagreements, work them out and be objective. Focus on issues, not on personalities. It will keep a spark of conflict from bursting into flames. Remember, a fire cannot be put off by another fire.

As a consultant for multinational companies and ultimate decision-makers, I have learned that there is nothing that saps career strength more than stress. Stress normally occurs in people who are no longer happy with their jobs. If you are no longer happy with your present job, then leave. Otherwise, you die. And that's the end of your starting career.

### Stress management

Dr. Jose M. Pujalte, a world-class orthopedic surgeon, once told me that one may not be able to prevent stress but one can keep it to a minimum. His advice is to take up weight training or calisthenics to build strength. Don't be a person who wants to win all battles. You are likely to overshoot your normal blood pressure and die of heart attack.

You can also practice Zen. Career advisor Howard Figler lists several Zen Buddhist principles such as: Think pictures. Visualize what it is you want to achieve. When you picture yourself at the peak of your capabilities, what do you see? Are you solving your problems? Speaking to a crowd of people? Teaching children? Do you imagine yourself drinking wine, laughing into the night? Picture your desire and you're on your way towards achieving it.

### Enjoy

Enjoy your job. View it as work and play. You can view work as efforts that you make towards a set of desirable outcomes while play is an inherently enjoyable activity.

Success motivation guru Deepak Chopra puts it, "Every single problem that you have in your life is the seed of any opportunity for some greater benefit. Once you have that perception, you open up to a whole new range of possibilities and this keeps the mystery, the wonder, the excitement, the adventure alive."

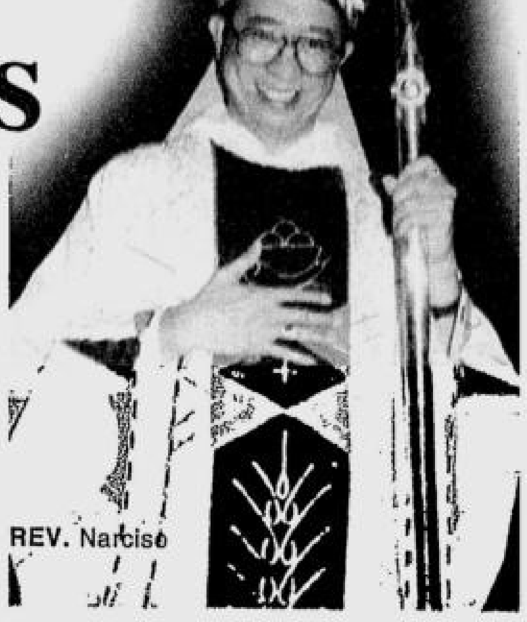
*(The author is CEO of Headhunter Manila, an executive career consulting company in the country. He is a fellow of the Singapore Institute of Management. You can reach him through e-mail at* headhunter@netasia.net.*)*

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

# PEOPLE at WORK

**RAUL O. MARCELO**, Editor ■ **REGINA GALANG REYES**, Subsection Editor

# Abbot is keeper of monks' souls



REV. Narciso

By Cecile G. Garcia

**REV. Tarcisio Ma. Narciso's long career as a member of the clergy reached a high point last March 7, when he was elected abbot of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, Manila. With this, Narciso becomes the Benedictine community's seventh abbot and is now its head or superior. Being head of the community he has loved and served is a richly deserved honor and a fitting climax to Narciso's career as a priest and educator.**

CAREER*Tales*

He succeeds Fr. Paul de Vera, who served as prior administrator and temporary head of the community for three years. The position of abbot had been virtually vacant until now. Narciso was installed on March 12 and he received the abbatial blessing in a solemn ceremony amid the splendor of the Abbey Church (San Beda Chapel) last March 31.

"I did not want the position and I did not expect to be elected," says Narciso, who was, however, aware that he was among those being considered. Upon his election by 36 monks of the community presided over by Abbot Visitor Placid Spearrit of the Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity in New Morcia, Western Australia, Narciso's immediate reaction was fear. "I am afraid of the awesome responsibility. The most frightening part is that I am responsible for the souls of the monks. I cannot delegate this responsibility. It is mine alone," explains Narciso.

An abbot, incidentally, is elected for an indefinite term. Strictly speaking, retirement age is 75. "Our first abbot lasted for 15 years. But an abbot may choose to retire when he wants," says Narciso.

According to Narciso, his vocation for the priesthood first became apparent when he was in grade school. His mother, who was deeply religious, was a great influence and so were the Benedictine sisters of the Holy Family School in his hometown of Angeles, Pampanga. "One thing more," quips Narciso, "I've always wanted to study in San Beda. The Benedictine sisters facilitated it." Narciso remarks that he has never felt out of place in the Benedictine community. He had always felt he belongs and has readily responded to whatever it has asked of him in terms of responsibility.

Narciso entered the Benedictine seminary as a postulant when he was in second year high school in 1955. After graduation in 1957, he became a novice, taking his temporary vows in 1958. He took up philosophy and AB English in San Beda, and went to the University of Sto. Tomas for a number of units in education. Narciso took his solemn vows in 1961, finished AB the following year and then, studied Theology. He was ordained on Sept. 25, 1965.

By then, Narciso had already been a teacher in grade school. As a full-fledged priest, he taught in second and third year high school and participated in various religious organizations involving San Beda and other colleges. In time, he became high school principal, later on taking a break to pursue his M.A. at the Catholic University in Washington D.C. Upon coming home, he assumed the position of principal of both grade school and high school, a system the college wanted to try out.

This was followed by his appointment as dean of the College of Arts and Science. "In 1998, I went back to being a high school principal and stayed until 1995," recounts Narciso. That same year, he was assigned rector of St. Benedict College (formerly Benedictine Abbey School) in Alabang.

As an educator and school administrator, Narciso says one of his best moves was to get himself involved in accreditation. "In the 70s, I trained as accreditor for the high school level and became a member of the Phil. Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities."

As head of the community, Narciso has to relinquish direct involvement in running the school. "One of the things I'll miss is implementing projects for the improvement of the school. I'll miss interacting with the personnel and I'll miss the students," he says.

Of course, there is now more time for contemplation, prayer and spiritual reading. But as abbot of the Benedictine community (both Mendiola and Alabang), a self-sustaining monastery in terms of finances and the required number of monks, Narciso's main concern is "to lead the community to a deeper relationship with 'God." Therefore, he must strive harder to live the life of a man of God because "being abbot

ABBOT/ B11

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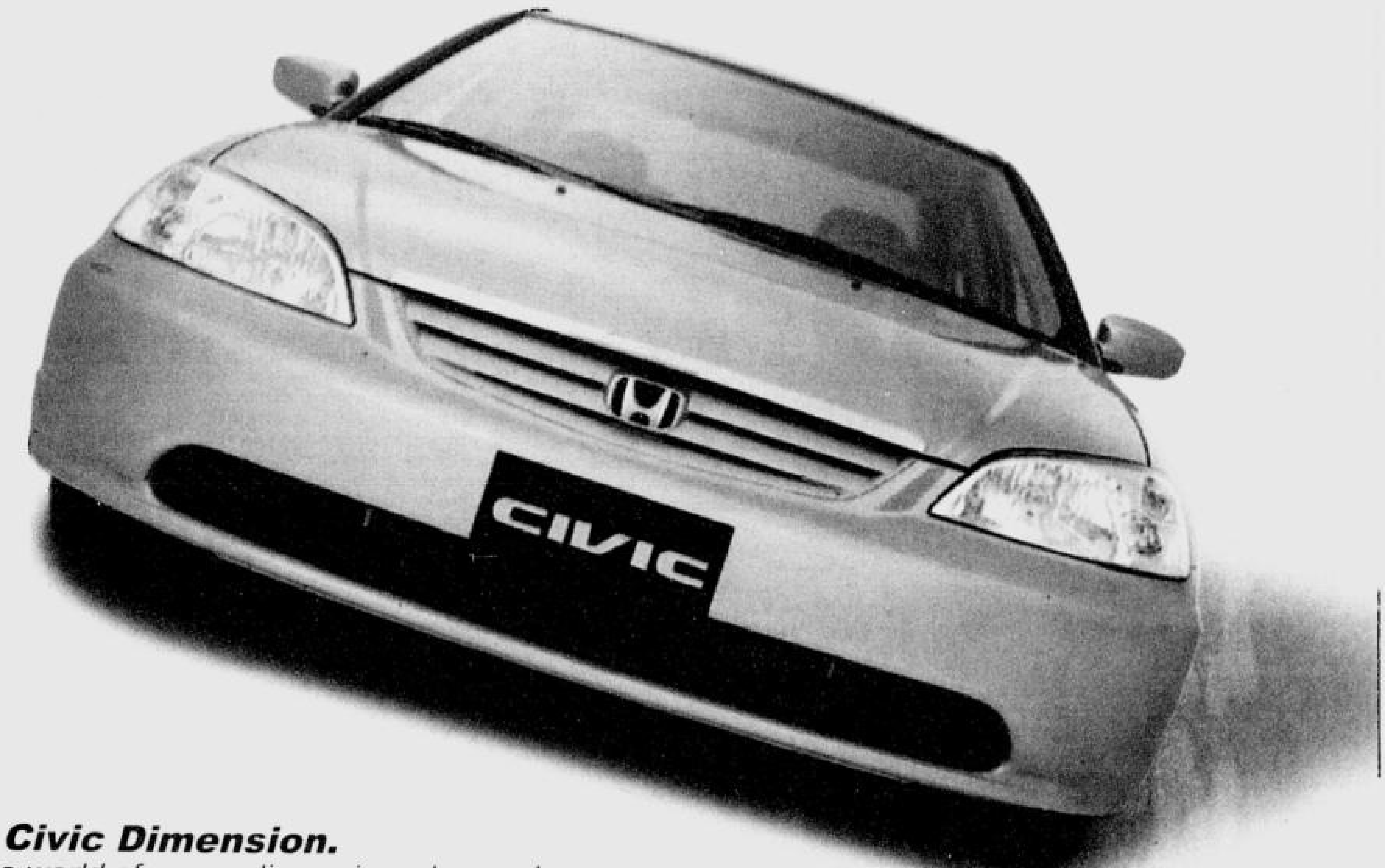

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# LIFESTYLE

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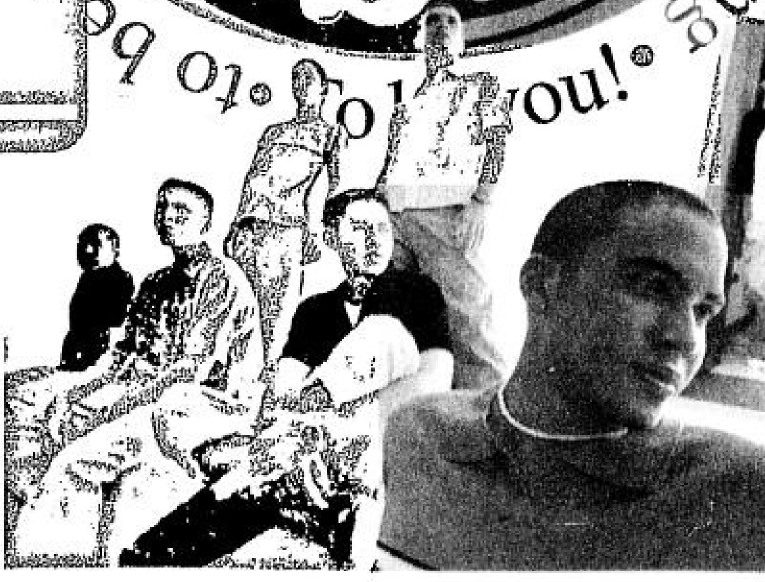
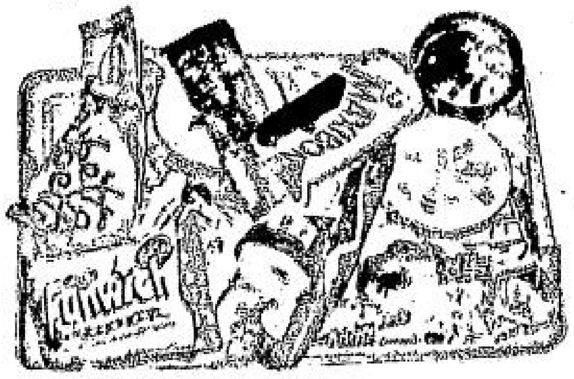
2bU!

# Heatwave

## and lovin' it

It's scorching out there, unbearably torrid sometimes. We can't banish the sun–but we sure can help you make your summer so hot it's cool. What to eat, what to wear, what to do–everything's here in 2bU!'s sizzling summer issue





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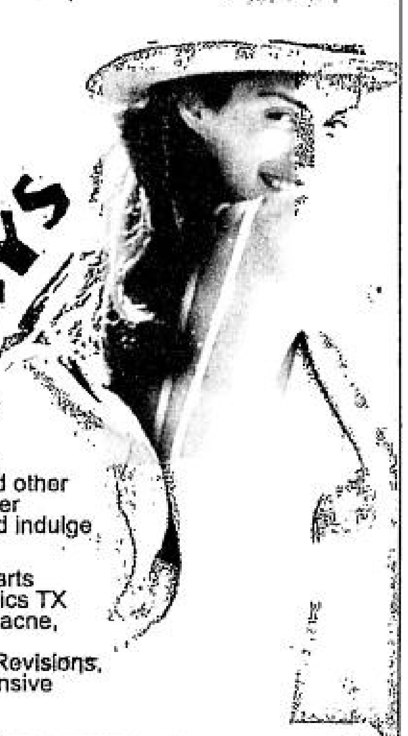

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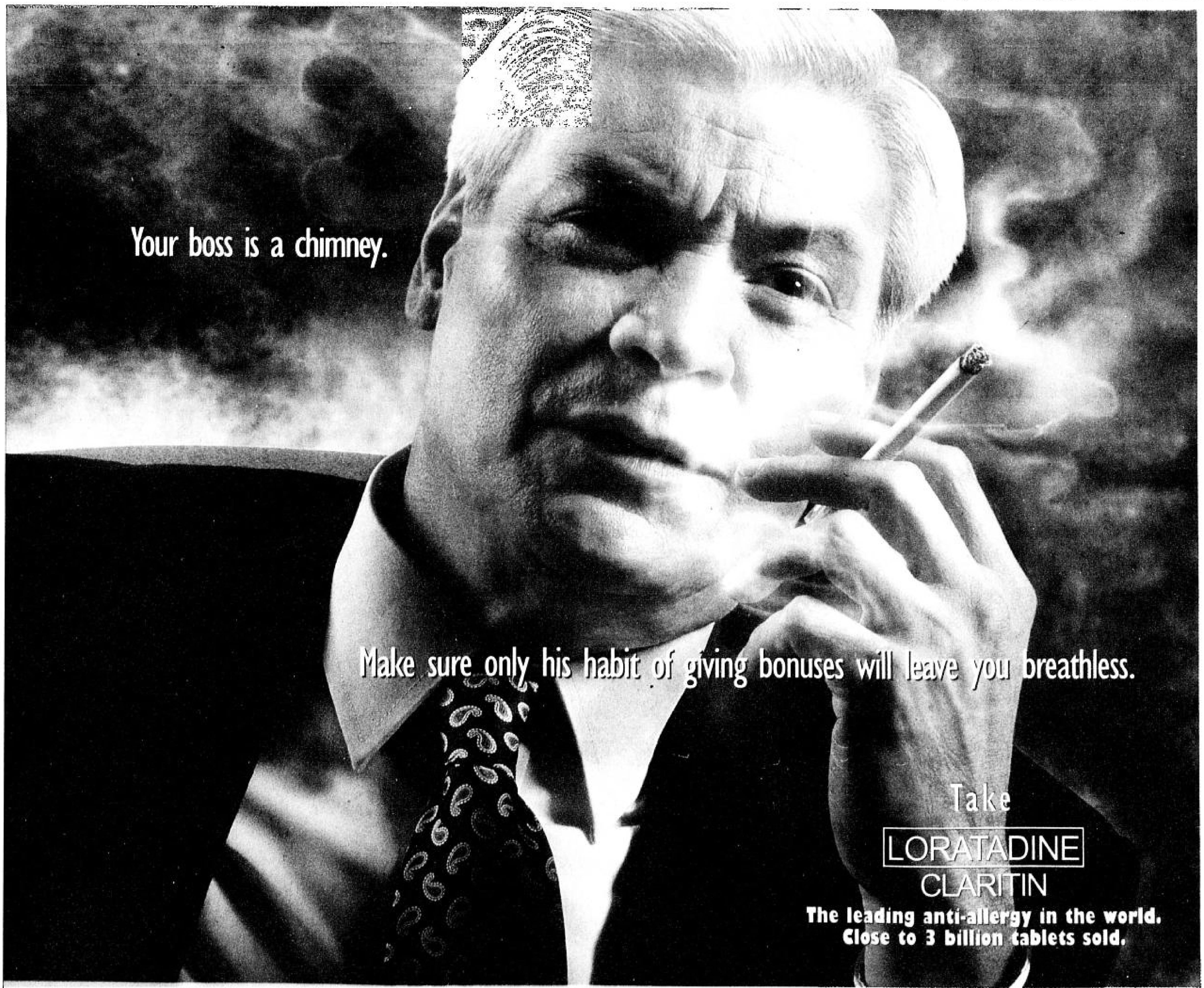
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## SUMMER CHECKLIST

# 20 things to do before the season ends

**By Harold Jason L. Doplito**
*2bU! Correspondent*

THERE is absolutely no excuse for anyone to find summer boring. Whether you're a bum or in for summer school, there are a lot of things you just have to experience during summer time. Here are a few of them:

**Be part of the solution.** If you weren't able to register for the upcoming elections because of Comelec officials whom we'd all love to hit with a frying pan on their heads, thanks to their selective "information campaign," then let us show what we've got. With the exponential powers of texting, the youth is a campaign machinery on its own. Oh, let me digress a bit. I read somewhere that Miriam's, *ehem*, Harvard education can be attributed to a certificate course, which the public can freely have access to as long as slots are available. Message sent.

**Vote for them.** For the lucky ones who were able to register, May 14 is probably one summer event that would have repercussions for the years ahead. The coming senatorial and local elections couldn't possibly be any more important. Please think about what the Filipino people fought for during the recent People Power II.

**Get those lines.** If you're sick of such Filipino mentality that only fair-complexioned people are beautiful, then start taking action. Be proud of your heritage; bathe under the sun and get those tan lines. Just don't forget your sunscreen lotion. And, oh, I heard coconut oil gives you a more dramatic suntan.

**Voyeur victim.** So, you're a willing victim of cyber voyeurs out there? No, I'm not talking about installing a Web camera in your house and letting millions see you on the Internet. Just put up a website and update it regularly to see how your summer is going so far. Cool, isn't it?

**Feast with your taste buds.** It might cost you some money but definitely, food is something we Filipinos always go for. Ever been to the Power Plant strip in Rockwell? Hmm... it'll be nice if we could just try them all out.

**What your thumb is doing, the eyes may not follow.** Although I doubt it if teenagers haven't actually developed this skill, I think it's still worth the suggestion. This summer, how about learning to text without looking at your screens? Finally, dinner with family while texting your sweetheart.

**Mission so possible.** Hurry, get out of this city fast! Why? *Wala lang.* Come on, you're not planning to spend summer in your house, are you? You're young, strong and in the prime of your life, why put it all to waste? It's not like you're required to go to Palawan or Boracay alone. There are so many other places to see.

*Voo-sâvé fransez*? Well, no if you spell it like that. So before those irritably tongue-twisting words make a permanent loop on your tongue, snap back with a beginner's course on French. Or Japanese. Then watch your *animés* with renewed understanding.

**Summer revamp.** Summer can be quite a period of time that'll separate you from your schoolmates. It's also a good time for a makeover job. But if you're tired of dieting all your life, learn to accept yourself. A renewed self-confidence is enough to make your classmates notice you.

**Classes not dismissed.** Feeling restless because you miss the teachers, classmates and lessons? Move on to a different kind of learning experience by expanding your knowledge beyond books and homeworks. Acting workshops and sports clinics are all over town. Just take your pick.

**Make Mom happy.** Once there was a summer when you slept in a bed that wasn't littered with melted chocolate bars and cookie crumbs. When finding a pair of socks didn't require you to look through a mountain of laundry. When Mom was nice to you and didn't scream at you every five minutes. A summer when you actually saw the floors and walls of your tidy room. Your body wasn't all that needed cleaning.

**Milking money.** During this time of year, teenagers experience a different kind of crises that is beyond their persuasive power: asking dear parents for an allowance. Their pockets seem to have an automatic lock system that prohibits cash outflow, resulting to puppy eyes syndrome. The solution: a job. How do you get one? Ask your parents.

**Coolers and shakers.** This is one hell of a summer, literally. It's so hot that the beach is not a requirement to get a suntan. Twenty minutes on your rooftop would do. To refresh yourself, why not concoct your own drink? Mix and match fruits into your blender, and with crushed ice and lime juices, your creativity is all that's needed to spruce it up.

**A fling.** Remember our article on summer flings a year ago? It's basically a romance that lasts, well, until summer ends. It's short and sweet. You think you're ready for one?

**Test the outback.** Oh, well, being on "Survivor" would probably never happen to you. If Michael's antics, Jerri's drama and Australia's adventure make you salivate for a real Philippine escapade, then make up your own "Survivor" game. You may never be able to put up a million dollars as prize money, but pushing yourself to the limit is rewarding enough.

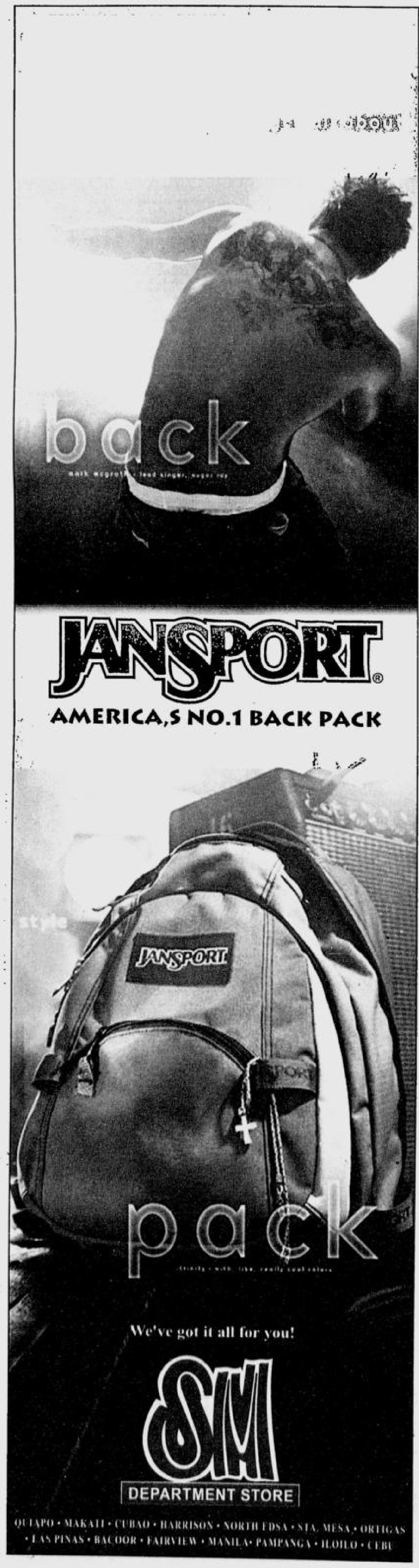
**Your own theme song.** Wouldn't your summer getaway be more fun if you were singing to your own summer song. Just whip out a pen, paper and guitar and you just might find your *barkada* humming along.

**Conquer your phobias.** If you're afraid of water, swim. If you're afraid of heights, jump. If you're afraid of dinosaurs, watch Barney (Maui Reyes says this works). Just face them and someone/thing is bound to help you along.

**Live your entrepreneurial dream.** If jobs aren't for you (or finding one isn't your thing), create your own business. From handicrafts to food and drinks, your *barkada* will definitely have a good time working together to earn money.

**"I have a dream..."** Martin Luther King had one. We all do. Achieve them one step, one summer at a time.

**Is 2bU! for you?** Ever wonder what it's like to be a 2bU! correspondent? Here's a little secret: You may not have to wonder anymore now that it's summer. This may be a teen experience you'll never forget. Be on the lookout.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# Come to Papa

**By Maui V. Reyes**
*2bU! Correspondent*

Bassist Tobin Esperance would try to make Christina Aguilera look like a normal girl: 'Give her a dark, edgy, crazy evil edge'

EVERYONE started shaking their heads when the Northern California band Papa Roach started stomping all over Radio City Music Hall during the 2000 pre-MTV VMA awards show. And why wouldn't they? Papa Roach was just another rap-rock band, singing about suicide and people who don't understand them. Sellouts, that's what they were called. Another flash-in-the pan. Sure, and Fred Durst never leaves his house without his red MLB cap.

That's because Papa Roach doesn't sing about getting some nookie or rollin' rollin' rollin'. And when he does rap about his generation, it's about the emotional flips people go through. It's not about black and white, happy or sad—it's about feeling this, feeling that, and four regular Vacaville, California guys who have so much more stories to tell.

Formed in high school, Papa Roach (singer Coby Dick, guitarist Jerry Horton, bassist Tobin Esperance, drummer Dave Bucker) held its first gig at a high-school battle of the bands contest, which foreshadowed what would become of them: kids jumping up and down in excitement, while the judges snickered at the band's sloppy beginning. Dick's mother even noted a judge's remark—"They should keep their day jobs." Fortunately for us, they did—by playing music.

When Dick moved out of his house at the age of 18 and roomed with a suicidal kid, he penned "Last Resort." And it was that song that got them major airplay. It made the world listen and realize that their debut album, "Infest," is more like a diary jammed with heavy guitar riffs than a record about getting high and scoring chicks. They don't sing about the lovey-dovey stuff teens like to chew on. They ram in experiences, emotions... all the nitty-gritty stuff that teen singers nowadays want to forget about, giving their all at every performance. At a recent Florida gig, not too many people showed up for the show, but instead of keeping in all that energy and reserving it for their Atlanta gig, Papa Roach cut the stage and did what they did in every show: give their 100 percent.

Bassist Tobin Esperance has been in the band since he was 13—his dad (a bassist himself) gave him a bass guitar at the age of 10, while his mom played jazz and reggae around the house. And, of course, he went through a punk rock and heavy metal phase. Now 20, Esperance gives 2bU! a call and talks about growing up, straight-edge punk (that would be drug and alcohol-free), and his mom.

**Has music always been a big part of your life?**

Yeah, my whole life, basically. My dad was a musician and my mom was in the music business and they split up when I was a kid, but my mom really opened me up to the whole music scene. She listened to The Doors, Duke Ellington. Yeah, I had a pretty cool mom.

**Was joining Papa Roach at 13 a good thing or a bad thing? Any perks and downsides?**

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**Did you ever get kicked out of clubs?**

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**What was your music like on your first two independent albums?**

Well, right now we're better songwriters, and the album ("Infest") is a lot more melodic. The first two albums were just... oh, god, f---in' scattered and loud and very experimental. We had weird songs and it was just young punk rock. We were all into Mr. Bungle, Faith No More... (Laughs) So you know it was really mixed up and... It was like brain stew.

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**So, what was it like going on the Vans Warped Tour?**

It was the most fun tour! It's like this punk rock summer camp, a barbecue with friends and beer and you just hang out. Meeting everybody... you also had to prove yourself there. People always thought of us as "that 'Last Resort'" band, and after that tour they just realized we were more than that. And that's really cool because these people really like those pioneers of punk rock, and they like us, too. And I also got to play with some bands that I like, and still do. Headlining our own tour now is cool, too... We'll be doing our own thing and that's really what Papa Roach is about.

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**What would the video look like?**

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**Ever thought of stopping by Asia?**

Definitely... maybe around August or September. We'd love to try and touch everywhere we can. You know, we want to be worldwide and have our music heard by everyone.

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## SUMMER CHECKLIST

# 20 things to do before the season ends

**By Harold Jason L. Doplito**
*2bU! Correspondent*

THERE is absolutely no excuse for anyone to find summer boring. Whether you're a bum or in for summer school, there are a lot of things you just have to experience during summer time. Here are a few of them:

**Be part of the solution.** If you weren't able to register for the upcoming elections because of Comelec officials whom we'd all love to hit with a frying pan on their heads, thanks to their selective "information campaign," then let us show what we've got. With the exponential powers of texting, the youth is a campaign machinery on its own. Oh, let me digress a bit. I read somewhere that Miriam's, *ehem*, Harvard education can be attributed to a certificate course, which the public can freely have access to as long as slots are available. Message sent.

**Vote for them.** For the lucky ones who were able to register, May 14 is probably one summer event that would have repercussions for the years ahead. The coming senatorial and local elections couldn't possibly be any more important. Please think about what the Filipino people fought for during the recent People Power II.

**Get those lines.** If you're sick of such Filipino mentality that only fair-complexioned people are beautiful, then start taking action. Be proud of your heritage; bathe under the sun and get those tan lines. Just don't forget your sunscreen lotion. And, oh, I heard coconut oil gives you a more dramatic suntan.

**Voyeur victim.** So, you're a willing victim of cyber voyeurs out there? No, I'm not talking about installing a Web camera in your house and letting millions see you on the Internet. Just put up a website and update it regularly to see how your summer is going so far. Cool, isn't it?

**Feast with your taste buds.** It might cost you some money but definitely, food is something we Filipinos always go for. Ever been to the Power Plant strip in Rockwell? Hmm... it'll be nice if we could just try them all out.

**What your thumb is doing, the eyes may not follow.** Although I doubt it if teenagers haven't actually developed this skill, I think it's still worth the suggestion. This summer, how about learning to text without looking at your screens? Finally, dinner with family while texting your sweetheart.

**Mission so possible.** Hurry, get out of this city fast! Why? *Wala lang*. Come on, you're not planning to spend summer in your house, are you? You're young, strong and in the prime of your life, why put it all to waste? It's not like you're required to go to Palawan or Boracay alone. There are so many other places to see.

*Voo-sâvé fransez*? Well, no if you spell it like that. So before those irritably tongue-twisting words make a permanent loop on your tongue, snap back with a beginner's course on French. Or Japanese. Then watch your *animés* with renewed understanding.

**Summer revamp.** Summer can be quite a period of time that'll separate you from your schoolmates. It's also a good time for a makeover job. But if you're tired of dieting all your life, learn to accept yourself. A renewed self-confidence is enough to make your classmates notice you.

**Classes not dismissed.** Feeling restless because you miss the teachers, classmates and lessons? Move on to a different kind of learning experience by expanding your knowledge beyond books and homeworks. Acting workshops and sports clinics are all over town. Just take your pick.

**Make Mom happy.** Once there was a summer when you slept in a bed that wasn't littered with melted chocolate bars and cookie crumbs. When finding a pair of socks didn't require you to look through a mountain of laundry. When Mom was nice to you and didn't scream at you every five minutes. A summer when you actually saw the floors and walls of your tidy room. Your body wasn't all that needed cleaning.

**Milking money.** During this time of year, teenagers experience a different kind of crises that is beyond their persuasive power: asking dear parents for an allowance. Their pockets seem to have an automatic lock system that prohibits cash outflow, resulting to puppy eyes syndrome. The solution: a job. How do you get one? Ask your parents.

**Coolers and shakers.** This is one hell of a summer, literally. It's so hot that the beach is not a requirement to get a suntan. Twenty minutes on your rooftop would do. To refresh yourself, why not concoct your own drink? Mix and match fruits into your blender, and with crushed ice and lime juices, your creativity is all that's needed to spruce it up.

**A fling.** Remember our article on summer flings a year ago? It's basically a romance that lasts, well, until summer ends. It's short and sweet. You think you're ready for one?

**Test the outback.** Oh, well, being on "Survivor" would probably never happen to you. If Michael's antics, Jerri's drama and Australia's adventure make you salivate for a real Philippine escapade, then make up your own "Survivor" game. You may never be able to put up a million dollars as prize money, but pushing yourself to the limit is rewarding enough.

**Your own theme song.** Wouldn't your summer getaway be more fun if you were singing to your own summer song. Just whip out a pen, paper and guitar and you just might find your *barkada* humming along.

**Conquer your phobias.** If you're afraid of water, swim. If you're afraid of heights, jump. If you're afraid of dinosaurs, watch Barney (Maui Reyes says this works). Just face them and someone/thing is bound to help you along.

**Live your entrepreneurial dream.** If jobs aren't for you (or finding one isn't your thing), create your own business. From handicrafts to food and drinks, your *barkada* will definitely have a good time working together to earn money.

**"I have a dream..."** Martin Luther King had one. We all do. Achieve them one step, one summer at a time.

**Is 2bU! for you?** Ever wonder what it's like to be a 2bU! correspondent? Here's a little secret: You may not have to wonder anymore now that it's summer. This may be a teen experience you'll never forget. Be on the lookout.

back
mark mcgrath · lead singer, sugar ray
JANSPORT®
AMERICA,S NO.1 BACK PACK
pack
trinity · with, like, really cool colors
We've got it all for you!
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU

# Come to Papa

**By Maui V. Reyes**
*2bU! Correspondent*

> Bassist Tobin Esperance would try to make Christina Aguilera look like a normal girl: 'Give her a dark, edgy, crazy evil edge'

**OF CRYBABIES AND INSECTS.** Buckner, Esperance, Dick and Horton

EVERYONE started shaking their heads when the Northern California band Papa Roach started stomping all over Radio City Music Hall during the 2000 pre-MTV VMA awards show. And why wouldn't they? Papa Roach was just another rap-rock band, singing about suicide and people who don't understand them. Sellouts, that's what they were called. Another flash-in-the pan. Sure, and Fred Durst never leaves his house without his red MLB cap.

That's because Papa Roach doesn't sing about getting some nookie or rollin' rollin' rollin'. And when he does rap about his generation, it's about the emotional flips people go through. It's not about black and white, happy or sad—it's about feeling this, feeling that, and four regular Vacaville, California guys who have so much more stories to tell.

Formed in high school, Papa Roach (singer Coby Dick, guitarist Jerry Horton, bassist Tobin Esperance, drummer Dave Bucker) held its first gig at a high-school battle of the bands contest, which foreshadowed what would become of them: kids jumping up and down in excitement, while the judges snickered at the band's sloppy beginning. Dick's mother even noted a judge's remark—"They should keep their day jobs." Fortunately for us, they did—by playing music

When Dick moved out of his house at the age of 18 and roomed with a suicidal kid, he penned "Last Resort." And it was that song that got them major airplay. It made the world listen and realize that their debut album, "Infest," is more like a diary jammed with heavy guitar riffs than a record about getting high and scoring chicks. They don't sing about the lovey-dovey stuff teens like to chew on. They ram in experiences, emotions all the nitty-gritty stuff that teen singers nowadays want to forget about, giving their all at every performance. At a recent Florida gig, not too many people showed up for the show, but instead of keeping in all that energy and reserving it for their Atlanta gig, Papa Roach cut the stage and did what they did in every show: give their 100 percent.

Bassist Tobin Esperance has been in the band since he was 13—his dad (a bassist himself) gave him a bass guitar at the age of 10, while his mom played jazz and reggae around the house. And, of course, he went through a punk rock and heavy metal phase. Now 20, Esperance gives 2bU! a call and talks about growing up, straight-edge punk (that would be drug and alcohol-free), and his mom.

**Has music always been a big part of your life?**

Yeah, my whole life, basically. My dad was a musician and my mom was in the music business and they split up when I was a kid, but my mom really opened me up to the whole music scene. She listened to The Doors, Duke Ellington. Yeah, I had a pretty cool mom.

**Was joining Papa Roach at 13 a good thing or a bad thing? Any perks and downsides?**

It was actually a lot of fun. I had a lot of older friends and they always knew me as "that kid who played bass for Papa Roach." So it was always cool.

**Did you ever get kicked out of clubs?**

Oh, yeah, a lot. (Laughs) You know, they catch you drinking and they kick you out. And I used to always wait outside and stuff. But then it's good—you end up with a lot of stories to tell.

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**What was your music like on your first two independent albums?**

Well, right now we're better songwriters, and the album ("Infest") is a lot more melodic. The first two albums were just oh, god, f---in' scattered and loud and very experimental. We had weird songs and it was just young punk rock. We were all into Mr. Bungle, Faith No More. (Laughs) So you know it was really mixed up and... It was like brain stew.

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**Okay, fine then, who are you dying to collaborate with?**

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**Were you ever influenced by Rage Against the Machine?**

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# Tricky treats to cool you down

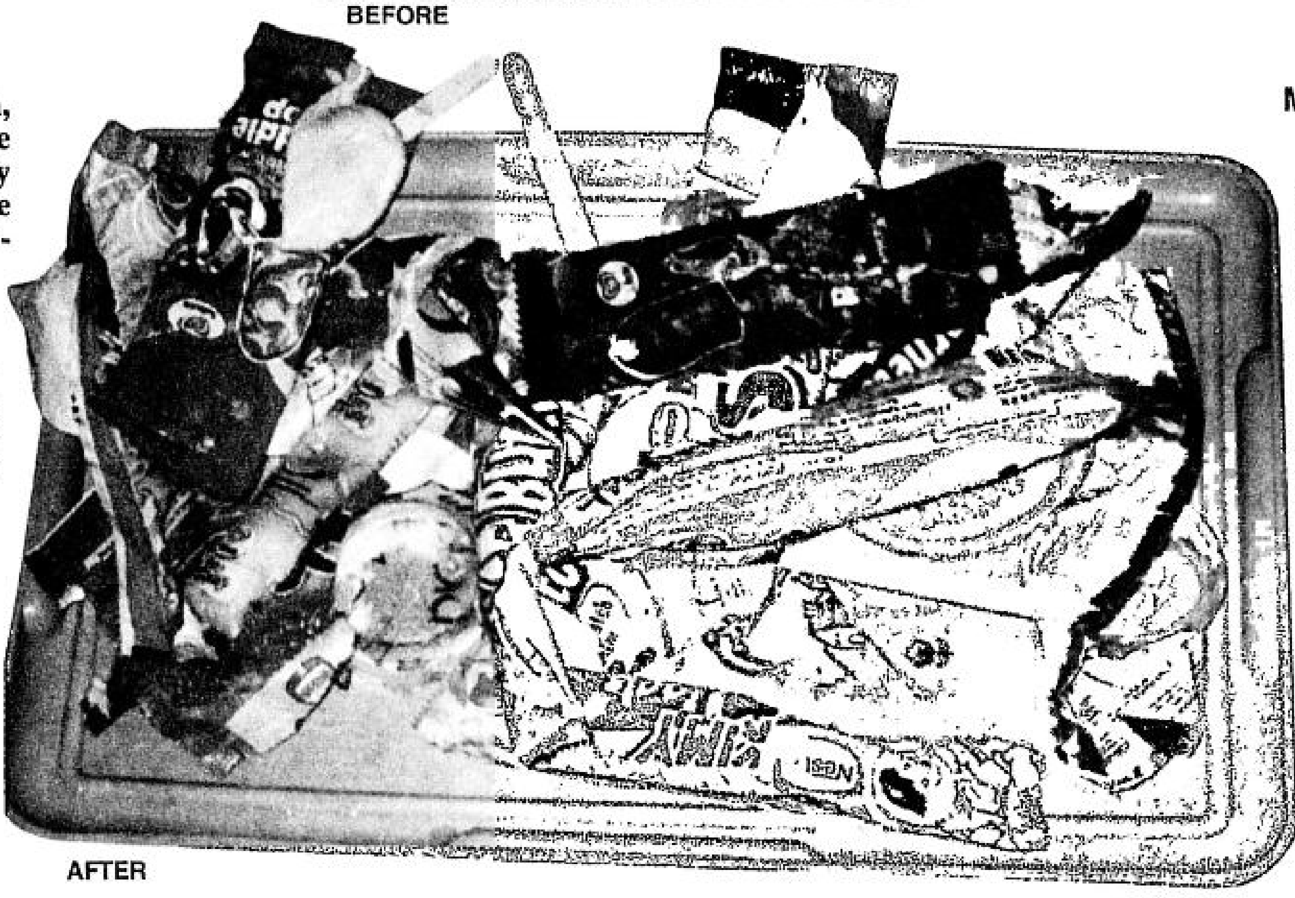
BEFORE

With so many frozen goodies available in the market, how do you know what to buy? 2bU! tries to help

By Pam Pastor

**IT was a sticky situation, to say the least. One Sunday, my mom, my 16-year-old brother Powie and I raided the supermarket for frozen treats from different ice cream companies.**

That night, sprawled on my mom's bed, we passed around the goodies (yes, sharing saliva and all). The result: A big mess, sticky fingers and three big smiles.



AFTER

### Magnolia Nestlé Maxibon

This is my top pick. One-half is chocolate-covered cookies-'n'-cream ice cream and the other half is a vanilla cookie sandwich. The chocolate is creamy and the rice crispies are really crunchy. To merely say that it's good is an injustice. The best judge would be your taste buds.

### Magnolia Nestlé Gold Label Double Dutch

Double Dutch ice cream in a cup topped with chocolate and marshmallows. My brother loved this one so much he didn't share it with us.

### Selecta Cornetto Buko Pandan

Swirls of white and green ice cream in a cup topped with green bits. I'm not really a *buko* fan, but my mom liked it just fine.

### Magnolia Nestlé Strawberry Frubetto

This was my mom's top pick. She was ooh-ing and aah-ing when she bit into this one. The wrapper read, "Strawberry-flavored ice lolly with smooth center and strawberry pieces." I have to agree—it's really good.

### Magnolia Nestlé Mango Frubetto

The Mango Frubetto was too exotic for my brother's taste. He made a face and said, "*Año yan?*" It was okay for me, although the strawberry is way better.

### Presto Tivoli Funwich

I remember eating Funwich as a kid during recess—and somehow, it now tastes different. The biscuit and the chocolate ice cream filling taste too strong, and the chocolate covering almost bitter. This treat is a tad too dark for my taste.

Tasting the Funwich brought back a longing for Selecta's Mickey Mouse Ice Cream Sandwich, of which I used to eat five a day (okay, okay, so I have a huge appetite). Will they ever bring it back?

While I'm at it, I also cannot forget Presto's Heaven in a Bar—creamy ice cream covered with rich, thick Belgian chocolate. My mouth is watering just at the thought of it. Everyone in 2bU! is clamoring for its return.

### Magnolia Nestlé Pinipig Crunch

One of my favorite childhood memories was waiting for the *manong sorbetero* to come around with Pinipig Crunch. Back then, this goodie came in a plastic pouch. Today it comes in a sealed foil packet, minus its old flavor. I miss the original recipe.

### Selecta Cornetto Double Dutch Cone

This is the winner, according to my brother. Double Dutch ice cream stuffed in a chocolate-lined waffle cone, topped with choco bits and chocolate syrup. The best part of it is the tip of the cone, which is filled with chocolate—the perfect way to end a delightful treat.

### Selecta Cornetto Ube Macapuno Cone

Powie also liked this one, although for me, the chocolate in the cone clashed with the *ube* ice cream. "It's good," he insisted. Okay. To each his own.

### Magnolia Nestlé Non-Stop Choco Banana Split

"Choco ice cream topped with banana ice cream rosettes and choco syrup." For some reason, although I don't eat bananas, I love banana ice cream (I'm crazy about Friday's Banana Split Pie). This one is a big hit for me.

### Magnolia Nestlé Vanilla Drumstick

Magnolia's Drumstick has always been good for me. Vanilla ice cream topped with chocolate and nuts on a chocolate-lined cone that ends with, yes, a chocolate-filled tip. Still a classic.

### Selecta Choco Paddle Pop

Just your typical chocolate popsicle. I'm not nuts about it. My mom likes it, though. If it was scorching hot, and there was no other choice, it would do just fine.

### Nestlé Kimy Jelly Jiggler

This I don't get. "Choco ice lolly with strawberry jelly center." The outer part tastes like the old chocolate twin popsies—but the inside is strawberry jello. My mom, brother and I had the same reaction: "Ewww!"

### Selecta Melon Ice Drop

If homemade ice candy doesn't cut it for you, give the commercial one a shot. It's not bad, although it could use a little more flavor.

### Selecta Rainbow Paddle Pop

Do you remember Selecta's sailboat popsicle? This tastes exactly like that. Bubble-gummy, tutti-frutti. Not bad at all.

### Nestlé Kimy Swirls

This is probably the Rainbow Paddle Pop's direct competitor. They look almost the same, but this one has a more caramel taste.

### Nestlé Ice Buko

"Your refreshing ice lolly with *buko* strips." It's okay—but if it's real *buko* taste you're after, better head off to your corner *sari-sari* store for a dose of the authentic ice *buko*.

*E-mail the author at pammy@exchange.ph*

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# Your dotcom tourist guide

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico
*2bU! Correspondent*

www.philtravelcenter.com

WHEN it's summer, you want to escape from the scorching heat of the sun. But the clubhouse pools are always jam-packed with people and you can't afford a weekend in Hawaii or Australia. So you decide to go on vacation—somewhere in the Philippine isles.

Don't know where to go in particular? Let the Philippine Travel Center help you choose your type of resorts from the islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Www.philtravelcenter.com is the website for Philippine travel agencies, tour operators, hotels, resorts, travel, leisure and tourism companies whose objective is to help their travel partners launch their Internet promotions, special discounts and attractive packages. The site also provides helpful travel tips and online discussions, especially for tourists who want to get a quick glance of the Philippines in general.

The information-packed website also includes travel informations, maps, museums, parks (complete with pictures and features), land transportation services and sightseeing guides for planning a tour in the Philippines. There are also links to travel agencies, like Boros Travel Booking Office and Tatak Pinoy Travel and Tours Inc., to make your inbound booking reservations hassle-free.

Now, have you decided where to strut in your newly bought bikinis? Have fun and don't forget the sunblock!

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(for Handicat and Meowisha)

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(for Spooky, Grey, Shelly, Katty, Poochy and Toothy)

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# LIFESTYLE

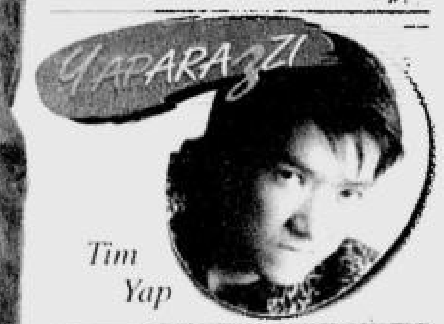
## 2bU! to be young • to be you • to be young • to be you • To be you!

VINTAGE FUTURE. Borgy Manotoc on the Replay ramp

# Fusion of old and new, wet and dry

**"HERE in the Philippines, there's only wet and dry seasons," says our editor in chief as a response to my spring wardrobe shopping this past Holy Week.**

Despite my penchant for the spring-fall-winter stuff, I suspect she's right. I don't need to tell you how hot it is—I'm sure you're already sweating by now—and it's even going to get hotter.



Tim Yap

So throw away your thick coats and jackets (for now—and the same goes for me, too) and replenish your closets with savvy new summer finds!

Find cotton-nylon shirts, lightweight jerseys, linen drawstring pants, canvases and twills in surefire summer colors—orange, pink, yellow, blue in bright and pastel tones.

Grab some basic stuff like shirts and jeans at Bench, Human, Benetton, Anonymous, Buffalo or the store of your choice and spruce it up with a funky belt, a floral brooch or an old pair of Vans slip-ons or Converse sneakers. One need not spend too much (think flea market and secondhand clothing finds) to look chic.

Shop a little (or a lot, depends on you).

FUSION/ p.D2

QUEEN OF THE JUNGLE. Sarah Meier in Replay summer seduction

Shop a little or a lot, accessorize or deconstruct—you can get crazy with fashion when the sun is out

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HEAVY **spunky stuff on Charmaine Palermo**

BROOCH **bitch look on Ciara Sevilla in Sari-Sari Koleksiyon**

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN AND RANDY HORMILLOSA

# Fusion of old and new, wet and dry

(From page D1)

accessorize or deconstruct.

### Replay runway report

Instead of grabbing some foreign fashion magazine for key summer looks, we scoured young Manila's runways for heatwave gear. What we have on these pages are snapshots from fashion parades around town. Stuff that is easy to find—at the risk of sounding like an infomercial, check them out at stores around you.

At the recent Fashion Week 2001, young, stylishly edgy brand Replay charted new worlds, cultures and attitudes with its latest collection, a hodgepodge of avant-garde tribal, vintage and futuristic clothing technology.

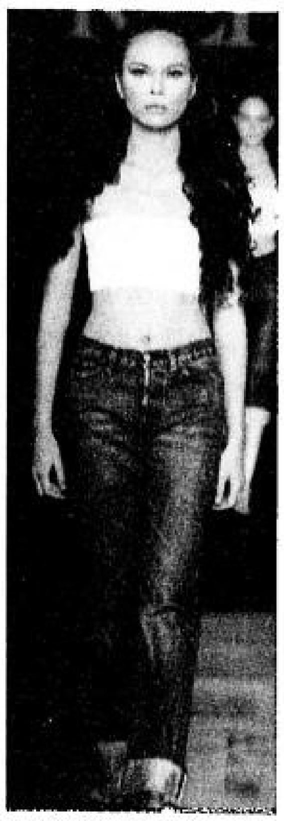
Its trend story consists of African wild life—drums, cave drawings, jungle spirits and surreal savannas—think Queen of the Urban Jungle.

Pinks and browns come together, unusual tints mutating with black and gray to white for sexy skirts, deconstructed denim and sequined tops—all express that irresistible female animalistic appeal.

A retro and futuristic mix comprises its men's

FUSION/ p.D3

MILITARY **spunk on Maya Barnaby**



WHITEWASH. **Joan de Mesa in Replay tank and jeans**

INSTANT REPLAY. **Red sports jacket for casual weekends at the country club**

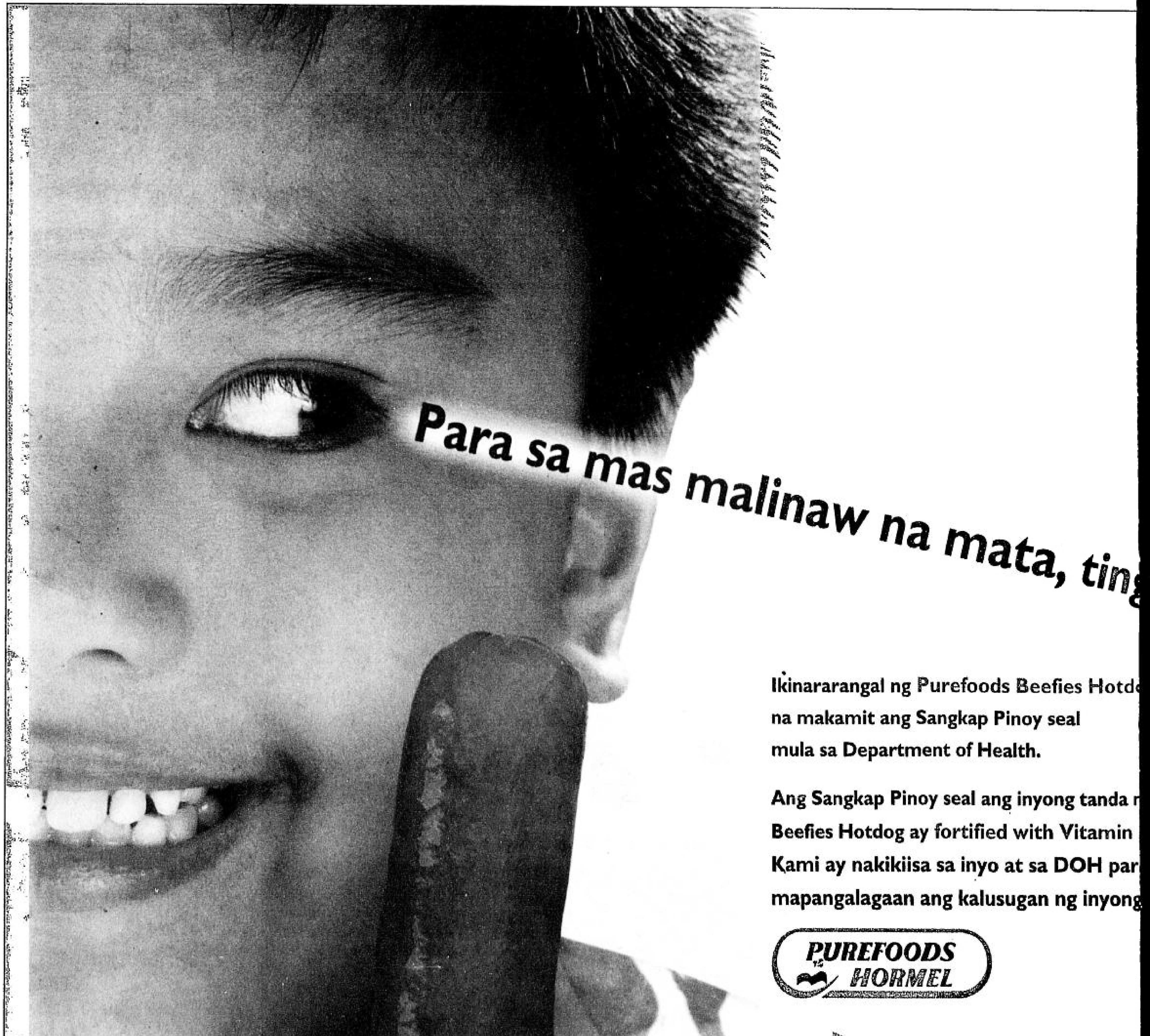
FUCHSIA **fixation of Bianca Valerio**

RATED R. **Lee Giles lets his hair down.**

SPORTY **spice struts her Sari-Sari.**

ASYMMETRICAL **trip on Rose Montenegro in Sari-Sari**

BEACH **babe Tanya Escaler takes a summer break.**



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LA VIE BOHEME. Oxygen cutoff tee, khaki full-button polo and loose linen pants

BEADS and hoops accessorize this orange slit tank top.

CHIC chop combines Oxygen khaki wraparound top with brick-red Indian-print sarong.

PENSHOPPE'S confetti raglan tee and fisherman's hat with khaki shorts

PINK lady wearing acrylic and confetti tube with jeans, by Penshoppe

VIOLET VOOM. Lavender top and khaki bottoms

HAWAII FIVE-O! Aloha prints and khakis for the beach

# Fusion of old and new, wet and dry

(From page D2)

collection—the experience of wearing worn, even aged garments resewn to new life with handicraft fabric treatments, washings and volumes—haute couture denims!

### Sari-Sari, Oxygen and Penshoppe

Orange bikinis, military gear and multicolored tanks and printed skirts dominate Sari-Sari's summer statements,' which we viewed some weeks back at the Rockwell strip.

Sari-Sari scenesters walked up and down the runway in glam rock ensembles, from their Sari-Sari, S2, Street and Spunky collections for that hip, young urban guerrilla in all of us.

Penshoppe's summer scenario embodies the sporty and vivacious in abundant geometric and abstract patterns—the fun side of summer! The Glorietta fashion parade was a collage of brights and jolly ensembles to perk you up and forget the heat.

Oxygen, on the other hand, presented unique, exotic, individualized outfits paired with bead necklaces, Chinois amulets and hoop earrings for the beach bohemian in you.

### The heat is on!

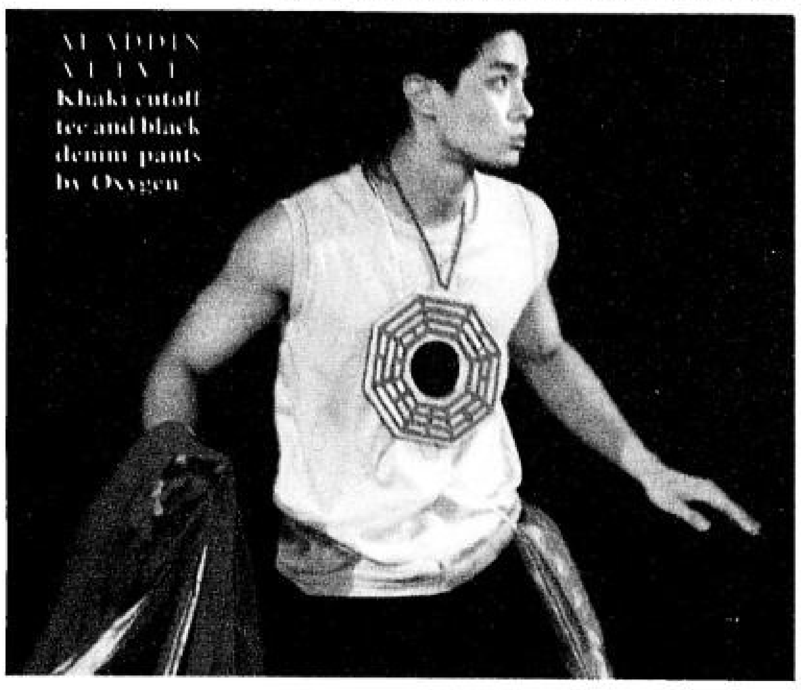
Young Manila lifestyle of now dictates a certain mobility in form—a mixed sense of modern versatility and -edge sensibility, a fusion of old and new, wet and dry.

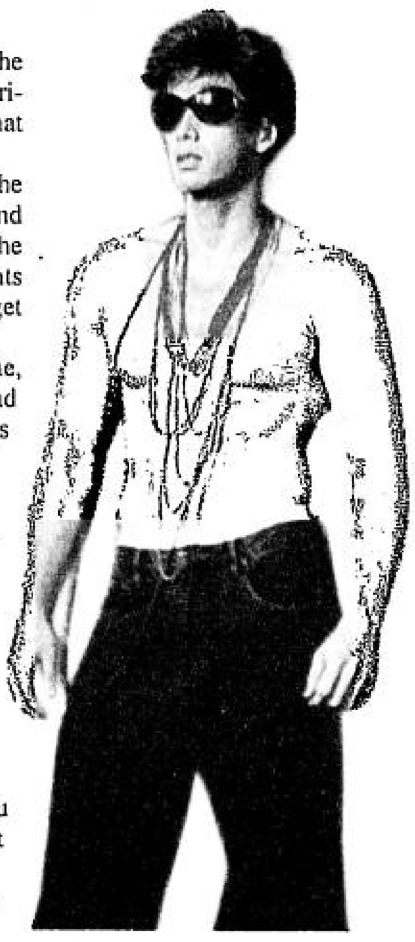
With the heat this much "on!", casuals and streetwear all merge into a leisurely style that wakes up early (for the office or beach or vice versa) and stays out late (for those all-nighter parties).

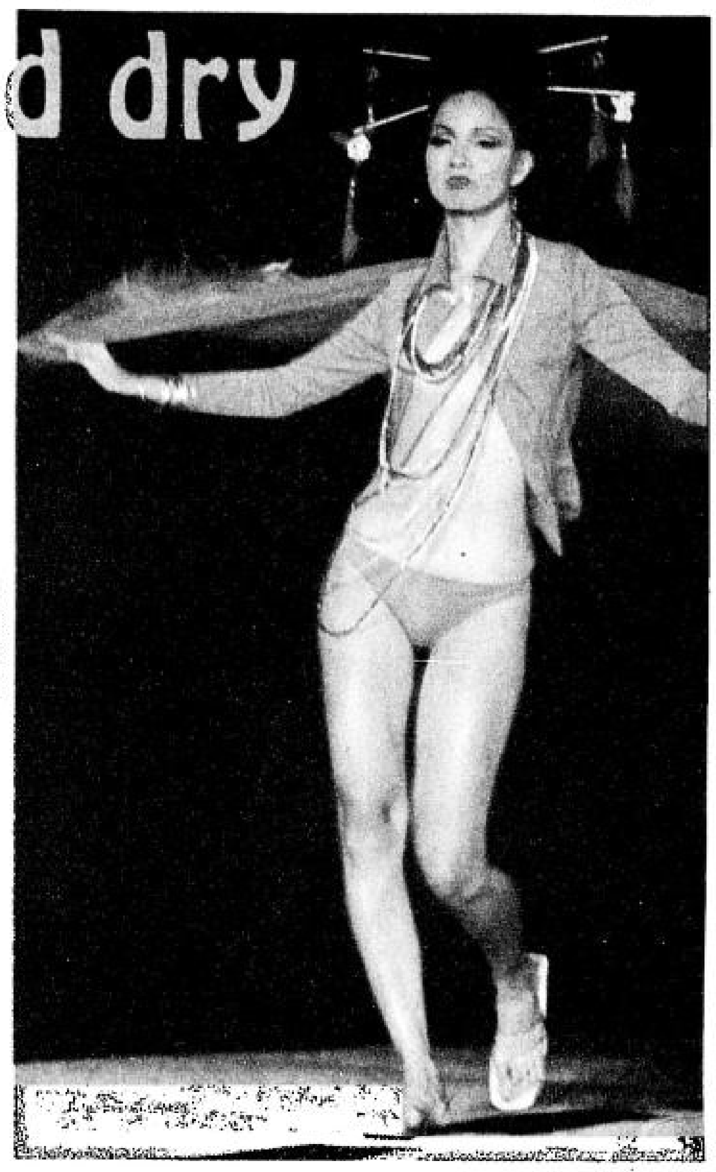
The look of the moment should take you from the office to the beach with a nonchalant attitude that says: "Because I can."

Think of a postmodern St. Tropez... or, okay, Boracay.

On these pages, witness summer's scintillating styles.

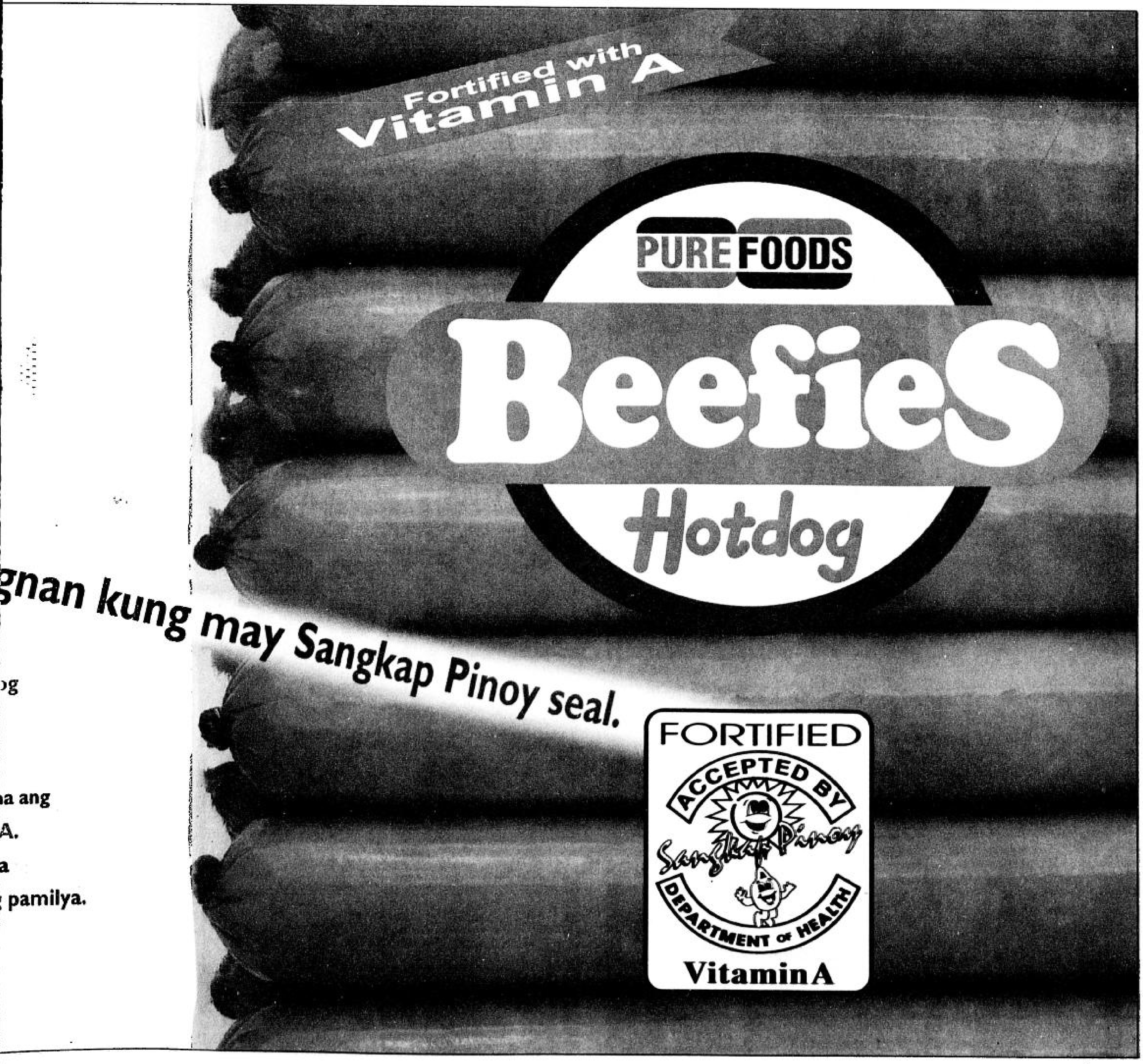

ALADDIN SANE. Khaki cutoff tee and black denim pants by Oxygen


THE BIGGER, THE BETTER. I meant that about the shades.


FIERY elements on this Oxygen ensemble

DO THE STRIP. Penshoppe's white sleeveless tee and denim cutoffs with mailman bag

SUNBURST. Bohemian printed Oxygen top and raw denim skirt with flared pants



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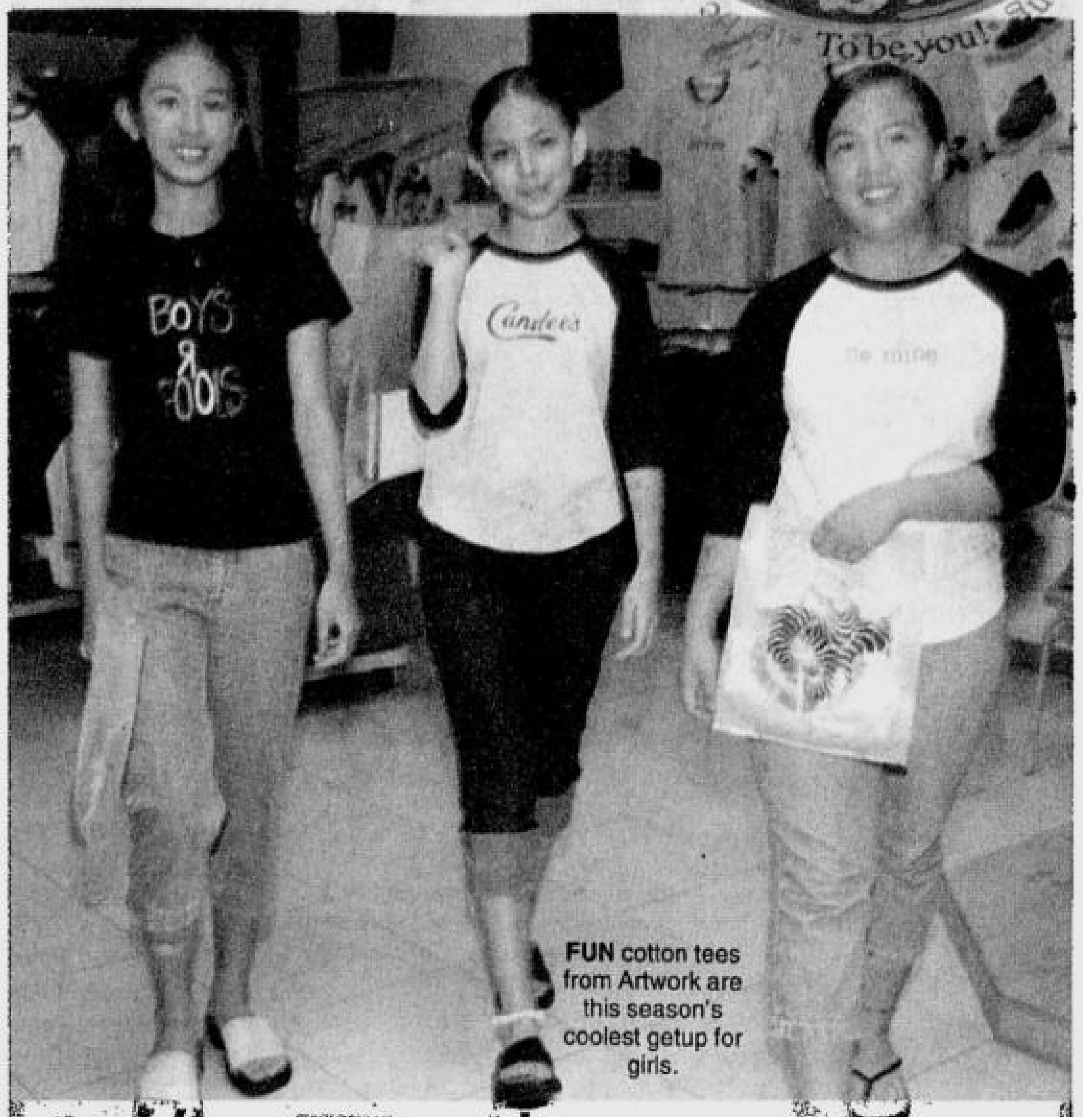

**FUN** cotton tees from Artwork are this season's coolest getup for girls.

# It's T time

*NO more classes, no more books, no more teachers' dirty looks!*

There's one thing that students forgot to add to this chant: *no more uniforms*! You know that summer's here when teens break free of those stiff white-collared shirts or plaid 2-inches-below-the-knee skirts. It's the season for "free dress." But now comes the dilemma: what to wear.

You'll find the answer at Artwork, the store known for its funky baseball and Army T-shirts. They also house the one-of-a-kind shirts that have the face of, say, Bob Marley, and cartoon drawings of the Beatles from the mop-top days. They're the ones who carry clothing that make statements: "Give Peace a Chance," "Yeah, right" and the playful "I will not kiss the boys. I will not kiss the boys."

For the ultimate summer-gimmick wardrobe, there are the FBI and Navy classic T-shirts for the guys and cute, colorful baby tees in different designs for the girls to live in during these hot, hot days, paired off with capri pants. Complete the look with sandals by Coly, which just came out with a line that has attitude written all over it.

Artwork's unique and hip everyday wear is made of 100-percent cotton so you can move freely without breaking a sweat.

Artwork tops and Coly sandals are available at the new Artwork shop in SM Fairview, and all Artwork stores at SM Cebu, Iloilo, Bacoor, Southmall and North Edsa, in Robinsons Bacolod and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

*Beia Formoso*

**FASHION** prisoners break free this summer with bright colored tees. PHOTOS: ROMY HOMILLADA

# Hot tips to prevent beauty disasters this summer

*Kinny Salas*

SUMMER in the Philippines brings the worst wave of beauty disasters ever. The polluted atmosphere combined with the humid weather is the perfect formula for everything to go wrong beauty-wise. Below are some tips to combat the most common summer beauty problems.

## Hair

- Now is not the time to think about coloring your hair. The harsh rays of the sun will do the highlights for you. If my advice came too late and you have already colored your hair, invest in a hat to protect the coloring job. The sun will fade the highlights or overbleach it, making it look cheap and brassy.
- Fine and limp hair will benefit from an anti-residue shampoo like Neutrogena or Aveda to remove any buildup that weighs the hair down. Dry wet hair by bending forward from the waist and combing it through. Apply a lightweight spray gel (6 inches away) like L'Oreal or Bench near the roots to hold it up and add volume.
- For curly/coarse/frizzy hair, switch to a richer formula shampoo and conditioner to weigh hair down and make it more manageable. A leave-on conditioner applied to damp hair will set it till it dries and keep curls in check. This procedure makes blow-drying unnecessary. Do not towel-dry wet hair—just squeeze with a towel—as this will destroy the natural line and make hair all big and matted.
- Saturate hair with tap water before and after diving into a pool or the ocean to prevent full penetration of elements so as to not damage hair. Watering down hair conditioner and combing through hair also acts as an effective barrier against the sun.

## Face

- Pimples thrive at this time of year so make sure you apply a transparent medicine like Isotrex or Zui Spots underneath your sunblock when you go out in public.
- Make sure your sunblock is formulated for the face area and not for the body as the latter is too thick and will most likely clog your pores giving you bigger problems. Face sunblock is nongreasy and transparent, affording you both beauty and comfort. Try Neutrogena SPF 30, Helioblock and Godiva Green Tea SPF 15.
- Lip balms and lipsticks with SPF are necessary because lips are not immune to skin cancer.
- Wraparound shades with UV protection lenses offer the best protection from the sun's harmful rays that cause premature aging and crow's feet. A wide-brimmed hat can also protect from heatstroke and skin damage.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

## Body

- Instant slimmers. How many of us are really confident about facing the world in a swimsuit? Sure, there are tummy-control brands now but what about camouflage for thunder thighs and "wow legs" arms? Try self-tanning lotions like Hawaiian Tropic or Bain de Soleil. They cover up cellulite and give the illusion of being slimmer and more toned. Shaves off 5-10 pounds easily. If you are still not content, wear a sarong or robe and leap into the water as soon as you shed them.
- Before you sunbathe, exfoliate your body with a grainy scrub to allow for even tanning. Dead skin areas will look gray, rough and clumpy if not removed beforehand.
- Zits on your back? Invest in a back scrubber and apply skin cleanser with salicylic acid to lather and leave on for about two minutes every time you shower. You can use your facial cleanser. Have someone apply an Isotretinoin ointment like Retin A or Stieva A on your back evenly. This will exfoliate the dead skin cells as well as eliminate your blemishes.

*For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 897-4805*

# LIFESTYLE

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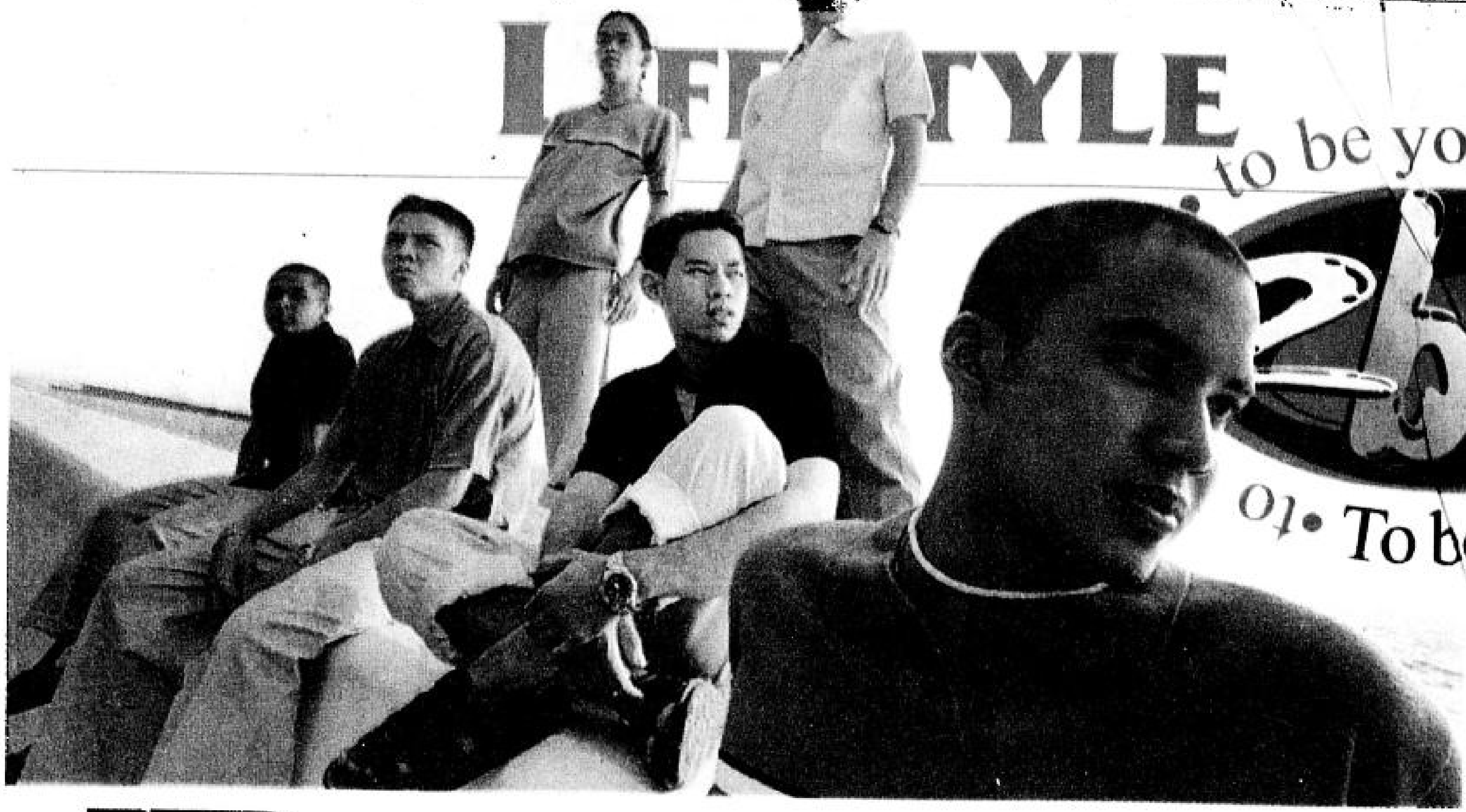

to be you • to be young • to • To be you! • 2bU

Are the boys of football more gorgeous than other athletes?

# UP soccer's spice boys

By Jules Alcantara

**IT was hot. They were hot. And it definitely was a hot and sweaty fun shoot. Every thing was a breeze—from calling all the players of the 2001 UAAP Football champion, the UP Maroons, who readily said yes, to contacting the effervescent GP Reyes of Sari-Sari Store for the perfect summer "*porma,*" to asking Rica Peñalosa of Westin Philippine Plaza for permission to use their poolside.**

The pictorial was punctuated by cackles of laughter as UAAP top scorer Alden del Rosario

FROM LEFT: Alden del Rosario, Dominic Bautista, Patrick Velasco, John Guzman, Kiyo Meji, and Paolo Manue

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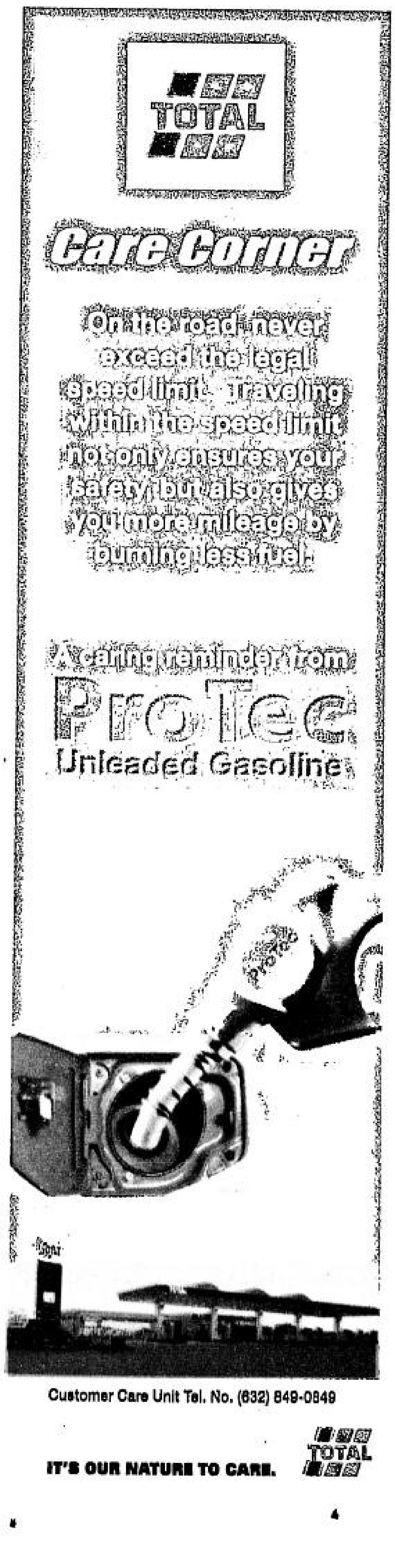

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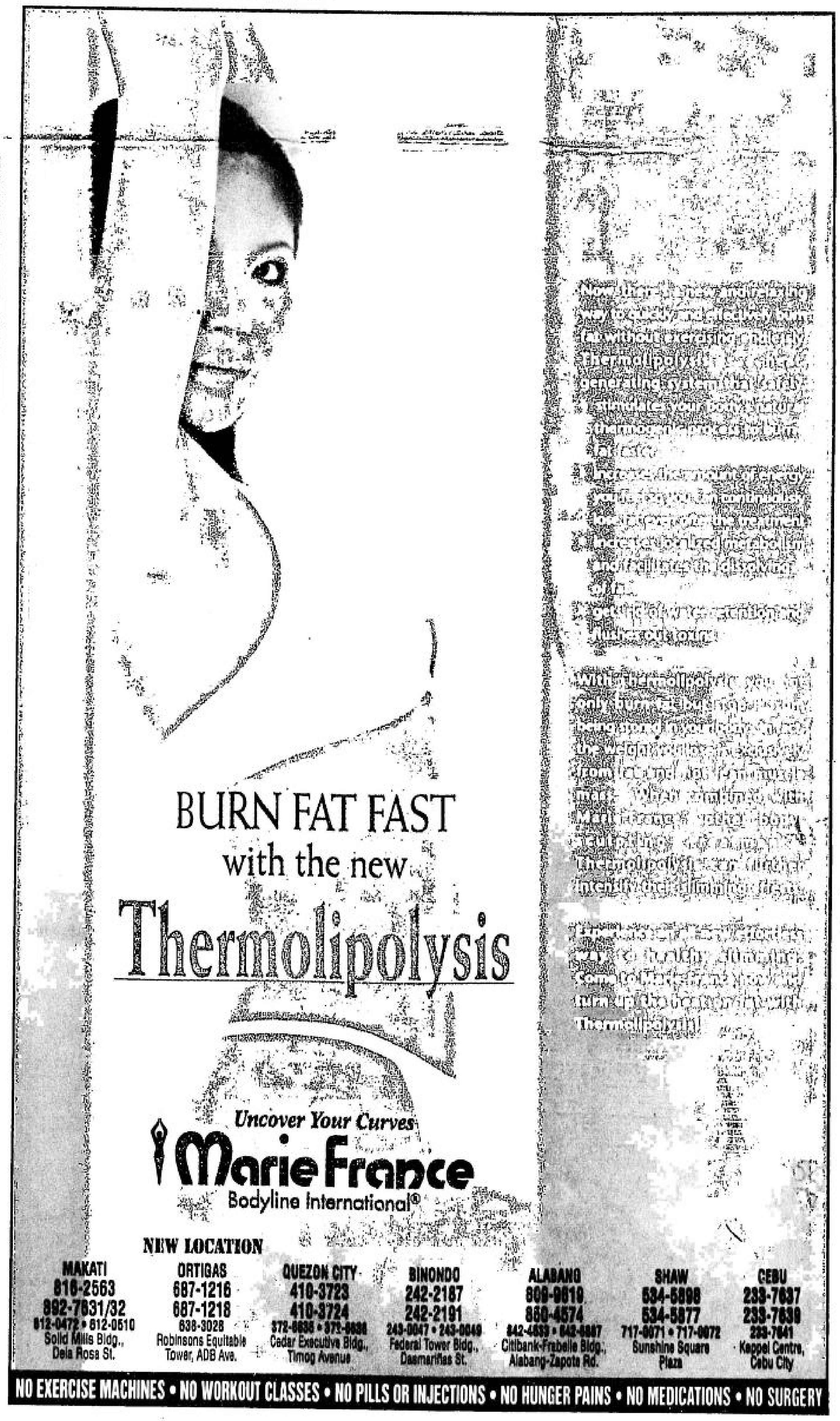

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# Spice up your summer

## If you don't have the time or money to go on international or out-of-town trips, try these new ideas to enjoy the season

By Michael Dizon Garcia
*2bU Correspondent*

WOOHOO, summer is finally here! For many, it means the time of the year they have been eagerly waiting for.

Okay, but what's the big deal? Of course, summer fun means going to beaches, provinces, different scenic spots or even abroad. But not everyone has the time and money to afford such vacation. Some would have to attend the annoying summer classes. While others have to report for summer work or OJT, others just opt to stay at home.

Well, it might just not be a boring summer for those who cannot escape the daily traffic and pollution in their cities. Here are some things that may spice up the summer lives of these unfortunate souls.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

- Go biking around the neighborhood. Sometimes the idea of going somewhere else seems a bit weird when you have not even tried exploring your own community. Who knows, in your exploration of your own village, you might just find things that may be of value to you even after summer. You might discover a cool spot where you and your friends can hang out. You might also meet a cute teen who lives a few blocks away from your house. Isn't this more cool than the guy or gal who brags about his or her summer fling in Subic while your girlfriend or boyfriend prospect just lives around the corner?
- While living a bum life, experiment with different looks. You may not have the chance to do this once the school year starts. If you have always donned the most conservative school uniform, then now's your chance to show some flesh. I know a girl who goes to a university which requires its students to wear business attire every day. In school, she looks like a lady in her late-20s. But when I saw her in short shorts and a hanging blouse, she could easily pass as Christina Aguillera. Talking of new looks, you might even want to try on different hair colors to see which one fits you.
- A more fun thing to do is to have a body tattoo of the latest and hottest patterns and characters. Chinese characters are definitely exotic and in vogue. Just make sure all those tattoos are henna-based, lest you want to make your body appear like some Confucian pamphlet.
- If you are the narcissus type, you may want to beef up that body while you still have the luxury of time. Work out in the gym! Especially those thin guys who have always been criticized for those ribs sticking out of your sides. By next school year, you can strut your stuff in the hallways in your tight black shirt. Tip: Make it appear you are not aware of the tremendous improvement in your torso and girls will find you even sexier.
- Finish a cross-stitch this summer. At least you will have a sense of fulfillment after seeing the progress in your pattern day after day. Guys may find this fun, too. But don't let friends see you working on some flowery pattern, bordered with red and pink hearts.
- Cooking outdoors, especially at the lawn of a house of a friend, could be very enjoyable. Besides being with the people you like to socialize with, grilling does not entail much culinary knowledge, so even amateur or aspiring cooks can start their lessons by smoking a giant squid. Yummy! Then match it with ice-cold lemonade (Hmm, beer goes best with grilled seafood). Anyway, just don't overdo that grilling thing. Believe me, a sun tan looks much better than a coal smoke black.
- Plant a tree. Doing so may not be very tiresome after all, especially if what you will plant is one that needs the minimum of care. Observing the growth of your plant, the days need not be as boring as they would be if you'd continue staring at the lifeless rocks in your garden. With this investment, you could make your idle soil more productive and you could have provided yourself with possibly a fruit-bearing shade for next summer.
- Getting a pet may be another idea. But taking care of one may prove to entail much work because you have to feed him every day and clean the mess that goes out of his butt every now and then. Of course, it's your choice—no food, no poops.
- Do movie marathons either at the movie houses or at home. Of course, the advantage of movie houses is you can stay inside the whole day and still pay a fixed price for the air-conditioning. However, the good thing about watching movies at home is you get the chance of seeing the movies that are banned in cinemas. Seeing a live show is recommended. I mean, stuff like musicals and plays.

There may be lots of things you could do in lieu of going to far-away places just to have fun this summer. These may include reading good books, bar hopping, acquiring new skills, etc. The important thing is keeping your spirits high this summer. Avoid becoming a couch potato—watching the corniest of soap operas and variety shows.

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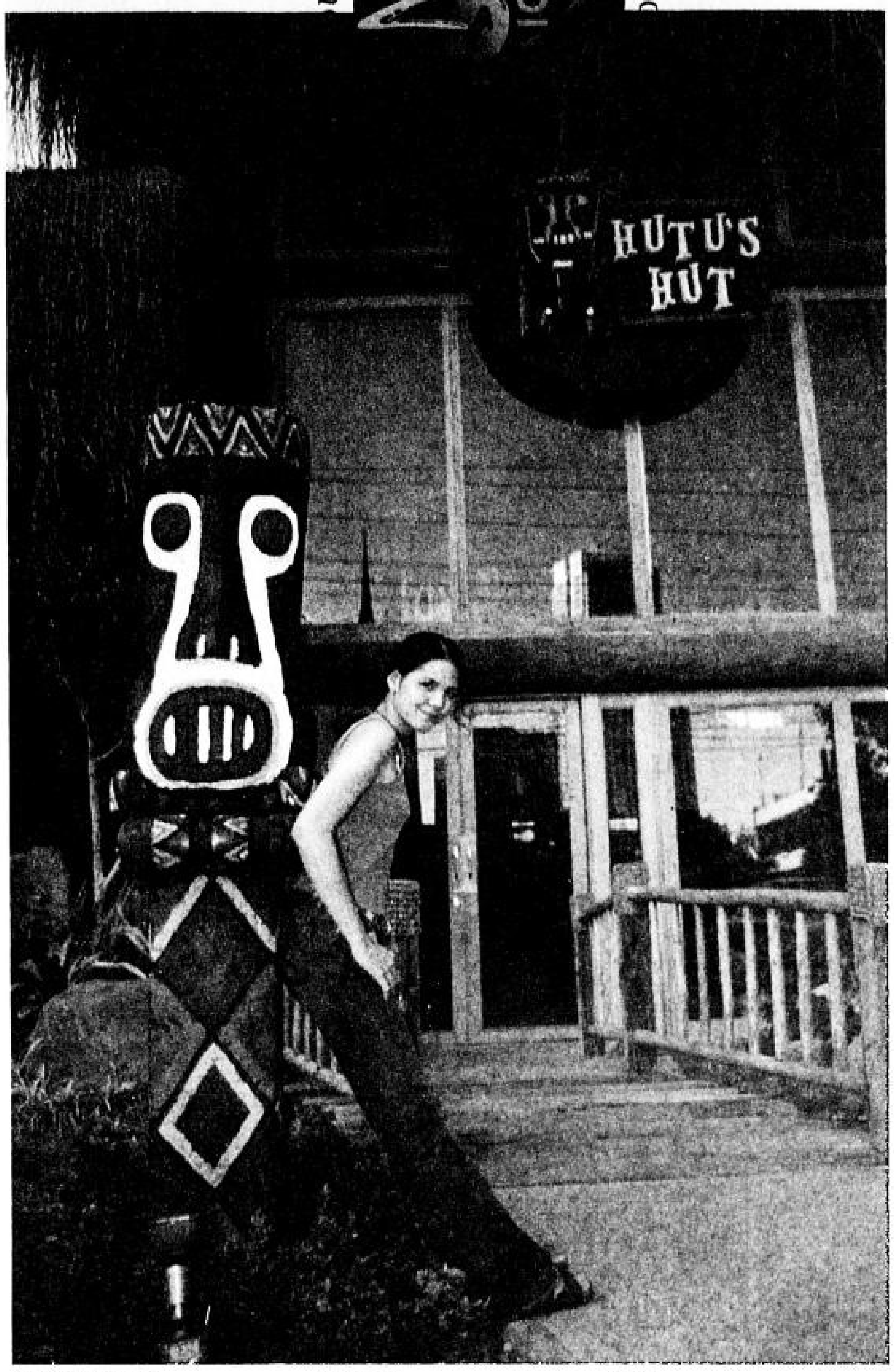

**GLAM** goddess turned earth-mother, according to Tim Yap.

An ex-glam goddess-turned-earth mother, Teray Garchitorena believes that a healing experience in Iloilo is part of her spiritual DNA

**STILL** a goddess despite having left the catwalk.

PHOTOS: ROMY HOMILLADA

# From the catwalk to the road less traveled

**ABOVE AND beyond the tankini and the ubiquitous tanning oil, summer is really about taking a journey. And as in any travel, one has to decide whether to take the high road or the road less traveled. If there's one person who has logged a lot of mileage in life, it would have to be Teresa Garchitorena.**

"Please call me Teray," she says with a big smile at Hutu's Hut, which evokes a beach atmosphere, complete with foliage that lulls you into thinking you are in some bar beside the seashore. With that, the 23-year-old "glam goddess-turned-earth mother" (as Tim Yap describes her) begins to share her ideas and feelings with boundless generosity and spontaneity.

The gangly ex-model and soccer varsity player was one of the boys when she was a kid. Teray gamely played basketball and *ciato* (a Filipino street game that involves two pieces of wooden stick of uneven length, raw baseball kids and the ability to stretch your vocal chords to its limit) with the neighborhood kids.

"At one point, I found girls really boring," she reveals with a laugh. She didn't really think she was going to become a model but she laughingly admits that back when she was a little girl she wanted to join Little Miss Philippines.

When asked to describe what her childhood was like, she says it was "free." "Our parents treated us like adults," she narrates. Her admiration for her parents is palpable. "My parents are cool," she says proudly. "Once I asked my mom what she wanted me to be and she said, 'Anything you want,'" she recalls. "What was emphasized in our house was 'to be yourself.'" She clearly remembers that dinner conversations were "very intellectual, very opinionated." They were constantly encouraged to stand up for what they believe in. "My parents are really intellectual people. They value integrity and character more than looks or superficial stuff," Teray stresses.

### Free spirit

Teray finished Interdisciplinary Studies at the Ateneo de Manila University, majoring in Education and Communications. She fell in love with Boracay and since she didn't want to work in a resort, she decided she would take up teaching as a profession. "That was how free-wheeling my college decisions were," she narrates with a laugh. She adds that she had "so many interests" but she did have an inkling she was going to do NGO work after college. She says she took the whole "college experience as a venue to try everything out and just enjoy"—enjoyment being her main objective. Teray wistfully says she has had "the greatest time in college."

It was on her second year in Ateneo when she first walked the ramp in a fashion show she and some friends organized. "Just for fun," she says. It was where she met Luis, who eventually became her agent in Metropolis. In fact, she and her contemporaries—Sarah Meier, Antoinette Enciso, Barbara Sison and Stacey Brennan—were the first batch of models of Metropolis. "They're all big-time now," she says. "It was really all fun and exciting," she says of her modeling stint three years ago.

**"I HAVEN'T** done this in a long time," Teray says of posing for the camera.

Teray was, among other things, even chosen as Preview's Covergirl in 1996. "It was fun because the people I worked with all became my good friends. They were such great people," she says. "Everyone likes to be told they look good—it really feeds your vanity," Teray explains when asked what she felt about the praises and accolades she received.

But after a year, she no longer enjoyed modeling. Before she started her career, she had no body image problems. "No issues *talaga*," she emphasizes.

"There is so much pressure about your looks. As soon as they recruit you they tell you, 'Hey, you can be a model but lose 20 pounds,' " she says matter-of-factly. Although her friends were worried she was losing a lot of weight, she says she did enjoy counting calories and drinking Slimfast, which worked quite well for her.

After a year of modeling, she quit. Perhaps trying to find the right words to express her feelings regarding quitting, Teray takes her time in answering. "I guess it was just me. I guess it's really not healthy to be consumed with how you look. The whole basis of your approval in the industry [modeling] is really the way you look. And that's tough," she says.

It came to a point she was more consumed by worries over her appearance than being grateful for having a job. "This whole obsession with the way we look is something I prefer to move away from instead of move into."

Meeting a friend who brought out her sense of "higher self" helped trigger her decision to finally walk away from the ramp. "When you start focusing on things on a more transcendent or meaningful level, you begin to realize you don't want your looks to be your main concern. In fact, you would even want that to be as small a concern as possible. Then you could say, 'I am a much happier person,' " she explains. All the positive feedback she was getting from the industry's experts and her peers didn't matter as much as her own personal happiness and contentment.

### Letting go

Albeit she had a hard time letting go, things became easy as soon as she decided she no longer wanted "to be part of a system that promotes commercialism." Teray informed her manager and told him that apart from the fact that she could no longer stand being so conscious of the way she looked, she also could no longer conform with the attitude that one had to look a certain way to be able to look or feel good.

Her manager was amazingly supportive of her decision and was even willing to launch her career as a photographer, which was her interest at that time. Teray was supposed to leave with a bang, with editorial spreads in various glossy magazines. "But in the end, I couldn't even do that," she recalls. After finally saying goodbye to her modeling career, she heaved a sigh of relief—as if a burden was lifted off her shoulders.

"It wasn't so much that I quit because I wanted to do something else, it was more like I quit because it was not for me," Teray says with finality.

"I guess I have always felt or I have always known I am not just a face or a body." No false modesty or humility in Teresa when she further explains that "in school, it wasn't really a big a deal, the whole look thing. My mom is not vain and neither is my older sister... so my being a model was not 'oh, you always have to look good.' It didn't take a lot of strength for me to *quit*. I guess the hardest part of quitting was really saying no, I won't do it anymore."

Teray reached that point when she realized all of the affirmation and attention she was getting was not, to say the least, "good for the soul."

Although she says she has gone through a "religious phase," she'd rather call herself "spiritual." "I am very wary of organized religion," she says. "I accept it for all the good that it brings. My family is Catholic and my spiritual roots are Catholic, but it's hard already to accept just any one school of thought that says, 'This is the correct one.' I mean, I don't think that's very realistic. Because if you believe in God, I don't think He created variety so He could exclude most of it, *di ba*?"

She has experienced a crisis of faith. "One night, I came home and was alone in my room. Normally I feel connected to the source but at that time I was *walang wala talaga* and I asked, 'How come I can't feel you?' and I realized that the act itself of asking is already an act of faith. It was such a leap of faith since 'I don't know but I'm calling anyway,' " Teray shares.

### Spiritual DNA

If there is one experience she has not forgotten, and in fact still thinks of up to this very day, it's her 10-month sojourn to Iloilo for the Jesuit Volunteer Program of the Philippines. The volunteer program, among other things, involved working with disadvantaged groups. Her parents, who have been very actively working with NGOs, might have influenced her participation in the program. The immersion also appealed to her sense of adventure and her eagerness to work with people. She was assigned to work with a Canadian-based NGO that supported agrarian reform beneficiaries and was teaching them sustainable agriculture.

"The experience changed a lot in me," she declares. She saw the worst in her come out as she dealt with issues such as lack of privacy when dealing with peeping toms. On the other hand, there was a whole lot she gained.

"The experience was a snippet, a short version of life. In a way I died because I left everything that was comfortable, but I knew it had an end because I was eventually going back to Manila. So everything I did, I really felt," she narrates with animation.

"Honestly, I don't think I did anything great. C'mon 10 months, what can you really do to help people? I did my best, but I was very disappointed with myself in a lot of aspects. But, wow, it was quite an experience. I met some of the most generous people I have ever met in my whole life." Since coming back from Iloilo, Teray has worked in an environmental NGO.

What is even more wonderful is she has discovered that healing is part of her spiritual DNA. "Somehow I've realized it's part of who I am supposed to be," she narrates. Teray plans to pursue a course on natural medicine in the United States next year.

Although her flights of fancy [and seriousness] have given her diverse experiences, she feels she is slowly getting grounded. Does she know where she's going? "I have an idea," she says with a knowing and confident smile. "I'm not discounting detours, pitfalls, U-turns along the way," she adds with a laugh.

The important thing is she has started the journey, which is more than one can say for the rest of us.

*Jules Alcantara*

*E-mail the author at jules26@gurlmail.com*

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# She wants to regain her self-confidence

*September Mahino & Carlos Garchitorena*

**DEAR Sep and Caloy,**

**I'm 27 years old and a graduate of HRM from one of the universities here in Manila. After graduation, I worked as a data analyst in an American firm for almost three years. Then I went to Taiwan as an OFW. I got hired as an operator at a manufacturing company of integrated circuit.**

**After five months, I was promoted as shift leader at our station. I gained self-confidence during my stay there.**

**I had to go home when my younger brother died of pancreatitis. When I went back to Taiwan, I was stunned to know I was no longer a shift leader. I decided to end my contract.**

**I got home in November 1999. After a month-long vacation in my hometown in Bohol, I began looking for a job in Manila. I attended seminars and trainings to be able to qualify. Unfortunately, my applications were turned down once they learned I was an OFW. I have lost my confidence in myself.**

**But still I believed God would give me work. In January, I got a phone call from a friend working in a law firm who said one of the lawyers needed a secretary. Without thinking twice, I rushed to QC for an interview. I was hired.**

**At first I enjoyed my work as a secretary. My problem is whenever my boss asks me to do a task, he always checks on me so I can't concentrate and I start trembling. But if he's not beside me, my work is done well. Most of the time I ask myself why this should happen to me. I want to get back my confidence. I want people to know I can do whatever they want me to do. How can I do these?**

**I'm 27 and God knows I want to be successful. Do I need to consult a psychiatrist? What should I do so I can keep my job? How can I overcome my nervousness?**

**LOST CONFIDENCE**

There are times I feel the way you do when your boss keeps looking over your should. Oftentimes, I just tell people to back off or mind their own business, but you can't do that because your business is your boss' business.

One thing about self-confidence is you don't get it from other people. I think it is something within you—and only you can refresh it. But this might help—try what Ally McBeal did, which is find a theme song, or a mantra. The TV series came off as a corny gimmick, but it does work in real life. The song doesn't have to be reflective or glorious-sounding. Just choose a piece that can immediately make you feel... chipper. Mine is currently "Play" by J. Lo. It's far from inspirational, but I like its sound. It's that simple.

Whether you take my advice or not, the situation you are in can be handled quite simply. Either you look around and sigh, "This is all I amount to," or you look around and think, "I deserve better." And stop moping about your past. It only makes you feel more frustrated and more embarrassed.

I hope you get back on your feet and become your old self sooner. Good luck.

**SEP**

A Bozanian proverb says "A rat—upon smelling a trap—will do anything to avoid it." But what is the trap? And does it even smell? These are the toughies.

You graduated with a degree in HRM. Maybe you enjoy working with food, being around people and being of service to them. In any case (and this is not to imply that what every person takes up in college has anything to do with what s/he wants to do with the rest of his/her life), your lack of confidence may be due to the fact that you probably know nothing about the jobs you end up doing. You've been walking on a tightrope with the safety net (your HRM degree) packed on your back (Read: useless).

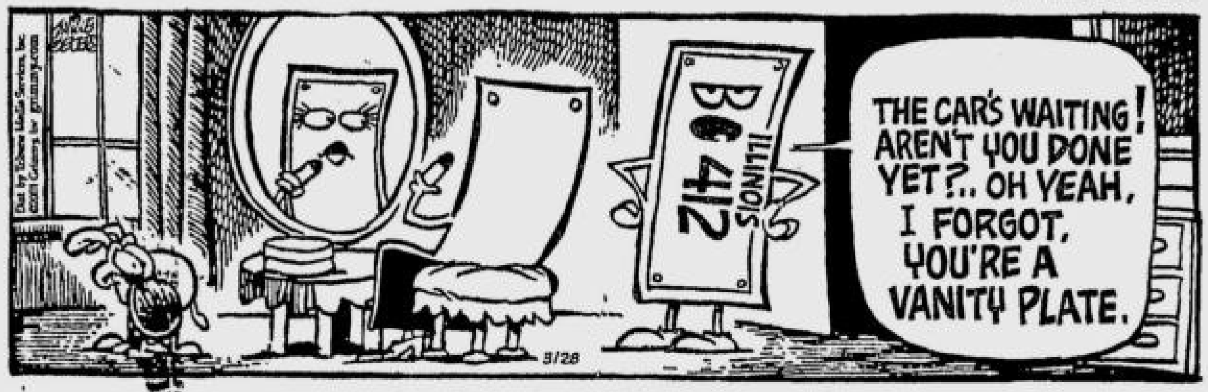
It's good you don't ignore the opportunities presented to you. But perhaps you should be more discerning next time. Don't succumb to the rat race too easily. Put up a fight. Stop to smell the flowers sometimes and learn to tell when the scent's an ozone-killing manufactured trap.

**CARLOS**

*E-mail the authors at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. Or write to them at PDI c/o Chatroom-Lifestyle, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo and Yague, P.O. Box 2353, Makati City*

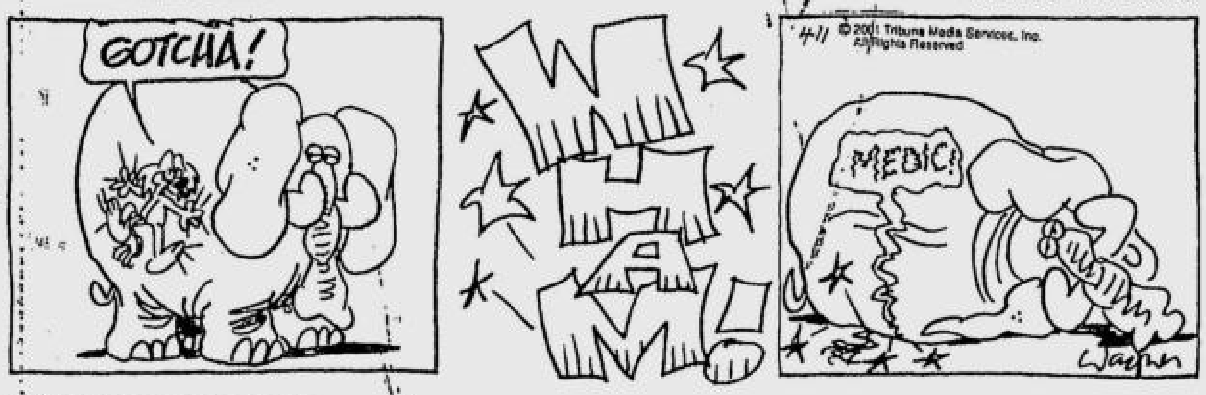
## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ILLINOIS
BG 412
THE CAR'S WAITING! AREN'T YOU DONE YET?.. OH YEAH, I FORGOT, YOU'RE A VANITY PLATE.
3/28

## ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER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MEDIC!
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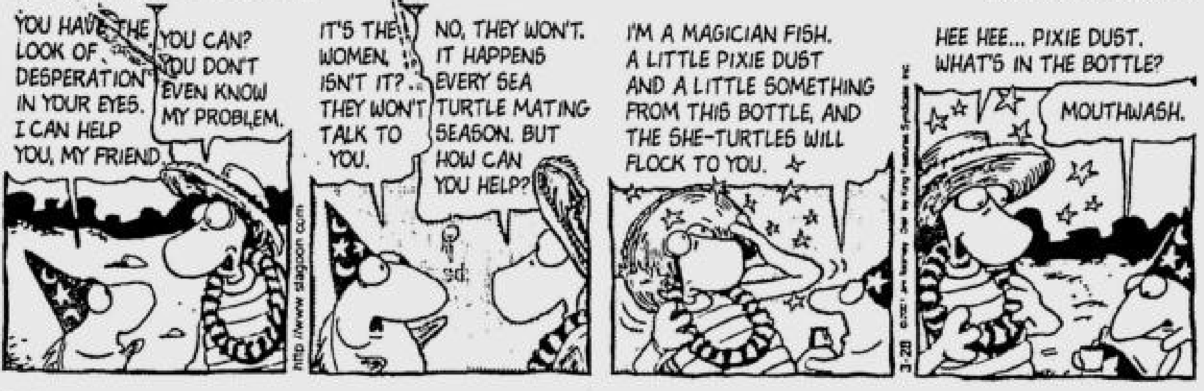
Wagner

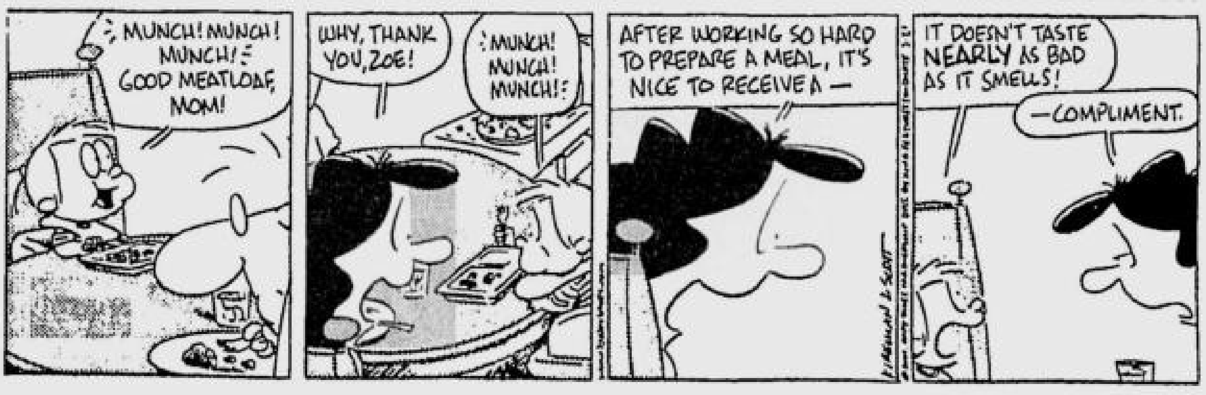
## SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


YOU HAVE THE LOOK OF DESPERATION IN YOUR EYES. I CAN HELP YOU, MY FRIEND.
YOU CAN? YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW MY PROBLEM.
IT'S THE WOMEN, ISN'T IT?.. THEY WON'T TALK TO YOU.
NO, THEY WON'T. IT HAPPENS EVERY SEA TURTLE MATING SEASON. BUT HOW CAN YOU HELP?
http://www.slagoon.com
I'M A MAGICIAN FISH. A LITTLE PIXIE DUST AND A LITTLE SOMETHING FROM THIS BOTTLE, AND THE SHE-TURTLES WILL FLOCK TO YOU.
HEE HEE... PIXIE DUST. WHAT'S IN THE BOTTLE?
MOUTHWASH.
3-28

## BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MUNCH! MUNCH! MUNCH! GOOD MEATLOAF, MOM!
WHY, THANK YOU, ZOE!
MUNCH! MUNCH! MUNCH!
AFTER WORKING SO HARD TO PREPARE A MEAL, IT'S NICE TO RECEIVE A —
IT DOESN'T TASTE NEARLY AS BAD AS IT SMELLS!
—COMPLIMENT.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

## HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Hayley Mills, James Woods, Eric Roberts, Conan O'Brien, Melody Thomas Scott, Melissa Joan Hart, Rick Moranis

**Happy Birthday:** Think about it. Choose your projects carefully and do them well instead of saying yes to everyone and doing an imperfect job. It will be hard for you to pass on some of the projects being offered, but if you set attainable goals, you will receive much greater rewards. Your numbers: 3, 14, 17, 25, 29, 31

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't let colleagues back you into a corner. You will have to learn to say no if you don't want to be taken for granted. You will have excellent ideas for getting work done more efficiently.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** One-sided romantic attractions are probable. Try not to wear your heart on your sleeve. Jealousy and anger will mount if one of your friends steals your thunder.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't be confrontational. You'll meet opposition if you try to push your ideas on others. Be observant and save your comments for another time. You need to focus on your career.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Your interest in philosophy and history will spark a greater interest in travel and foreign cultures. Look into the possibilities and talk to people who have taken journeys that interest you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Professional opportunities are apparent. Go after your goals, ask for a raise or sign new contracts. You can develop a good working relationship with others if you are willing to share your ideas.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Relationships will be serious. You can make a long-term commitment to the one you love. Plan a quiet romantic evening for two to discuss your future intentions.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't let yourself get run-down. Expect to have problems with co-workers or employers. Stick to your own work and be careful that someone doesn't try to take credit.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Your plans to improve yourself physically will result in a positive mental outlook. Use your discipline to accomplish your personal goals.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Say as little as possible and don't become involved in other people's affairs. Concentrate on your work. Someone you care about will be erratic and eager to pick a fight.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Communicate with your mate. Pleasure trips will result in a better understanding of your relationship and your commitment to one another. It's time to put your priorities in order.

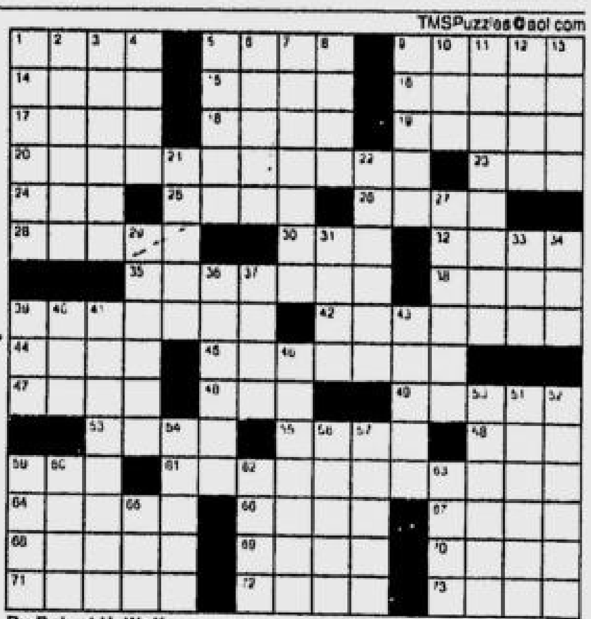
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Don't hesitate to become involved in a new business venture. Partnerships will be favorable, and you will come up with sound ideas. Your greatest limitation will be yourself.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't blow situations out of proportion. Your need to use emotional blackmail will only cause more discord. If you put your energy into physical outlets, you will avoid confrontations.

**Birthday Baby:** You are so sensitive. You have a great imagination and a strong dreamlike quality. You are inventive, innovative and quick to rise to any occasion that promises to be unusual.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

3/2/01

**ACROSS**
1 Ancient European
5 Letters for Nob Hill cops
9 Corner
14 Plot of land
15 "Dies __"
16 Fool
17 Greek portico
18 Traditional wisdom
19 Wide
20 Restraint against weeping?
23 Want __
24 Hail to Caesar
25 O.T. book
26 Martin or Rusk
28 Very cold
30 Eisenhower
32 Complacent
35 Loose tunics
38 Kind of palm
39 Makes the current current
42 "Dear Me" writer
44 Distinct mus. chords
45 Fierce fighters
47 Follow secretly
48 Fury
49 Ready for the pitch
53 Lacking: suff.
55 My goodness!
58 Climbing vine
59 Silk trap
61 Storage room for sobbers?
64 Sun-dried brick
66 From __ to stern
67 __ podrida
68 Terminate
69 Highland Gaelic
70 "The __ King"
71 Scheduled next
72 Face features
73 Period after Mardi Gras

**DOWN**
1 Braggart
2 Musical span
3 Gardener's scoop
4 Make well
5 Missile berths
6 Facade
7 Part of Alexander the Great's empire
8 Woodland ruminant
9 Mosey along
10 Scand. country
11 Moaning adult?
12 Weight capacity
13 Edges
21 Fragrant wood
22 Potemkin mutiny site
27 Lend a hand
29 Stalactite's cousin?
31 "Hunger" author Hamsun
33 Actor Tognazzi
34 State off.
36 Magical object
37 Russian sovereign
39 Q-U connection
40 Zeta-theta separator
41 Vessel for criers?
43 Exchange
46 Opposite of launch
50 Singer Holiday
51 King Arthur's paradise
52 Ruthless ruler
54 Series shutout
56 V-formation flyers
57 Top points
59 Baylor U. city
60 Idyllic spot
62 Oh yeah, right
63 Droop lazily
65 Youth grp.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | A | S | T | S | ■ | S | T | A | G | ■ | M | A | R | E |
| L | I | A | R | S | ■ | T | A | M | E | ■ | O | R | A | L |
| E | D | W | A | R | D | E | C | U | M | M | I | N | G | S |
| W | E | N | D | ■ | E | A | T | ■ | ■ | E | R | O | S | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | U | R | A | L | ■ | R | I | T | E | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | C | E | C | I | L | S | F | O | R | E | S | T | E | R |
| P | A | W | E | D | ■ | ■ | R | O | A | R | ■ | E | N | E |
| A | R | I | D | ■ | B | L | O | K | E | ■ | M | M | D | I |
| L | E | N | ■ | G | O | A | D | ■ | ■ | C | A | P | O | N |
| E | D | G | A | R | L | D | O | C | T | O | R | O | W | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | R | O | T | E | ■ | L | I | N | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | M | I | N | O | ■ | ■ | T | E | L | ■ | I | O | W | A |
| J | E | R | O | M | E | D | S | A | L | I | N | G | E | R |
| A | R | A | L | ■ | S | A | A | R | ■ | R | E | L | E | T |
| R | E | N | D | ■ | E | R | R | S | ■ | S | T | E | P | S |

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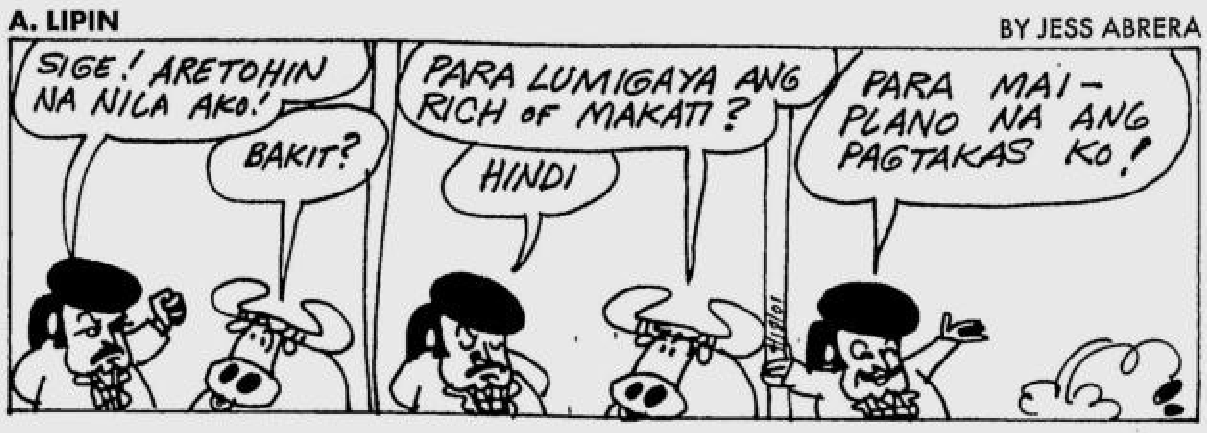
3/2/01

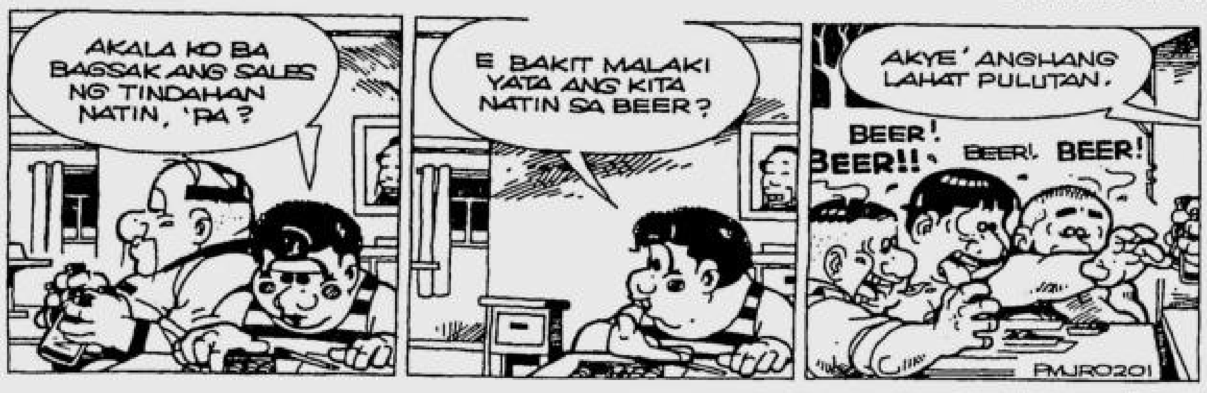
## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SIGE! ARETOHIN NA NILA AKO!
BAKIT?
PARA LUMIGAYA ANG RICH OF MAKATI?
HINDI
PARA MAI-PLANO NA ANG PAGTAKAS KO!

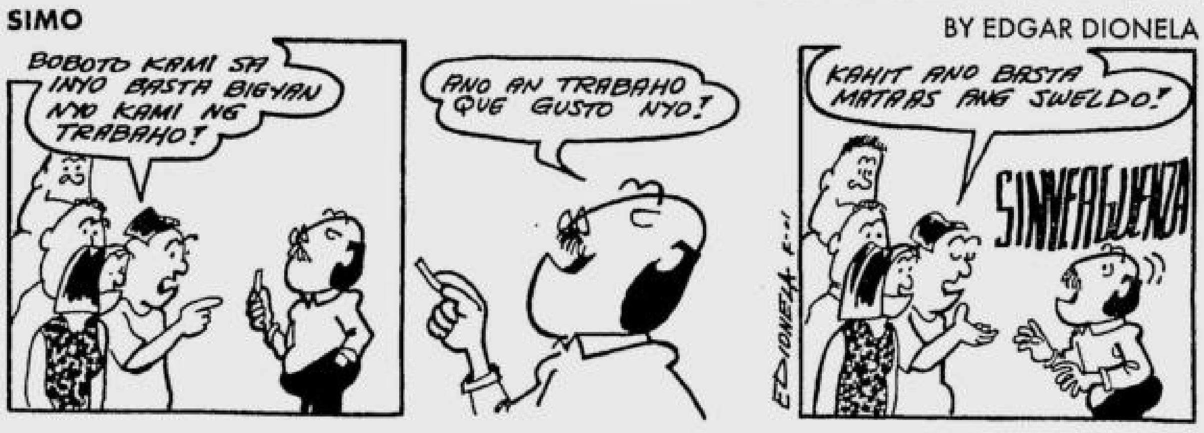
## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AKALA KO BA BAGSAK ANG SALES NG TINDAHAN NATIN, 'PA?
E BAKIT MALAKI YATA ANG KITA NATIN SA BEER?
AKYE' ANGHANG LAHAT PULUTAN.
BEER!
BEER!!
BEER!
BEER!
PMJR0201

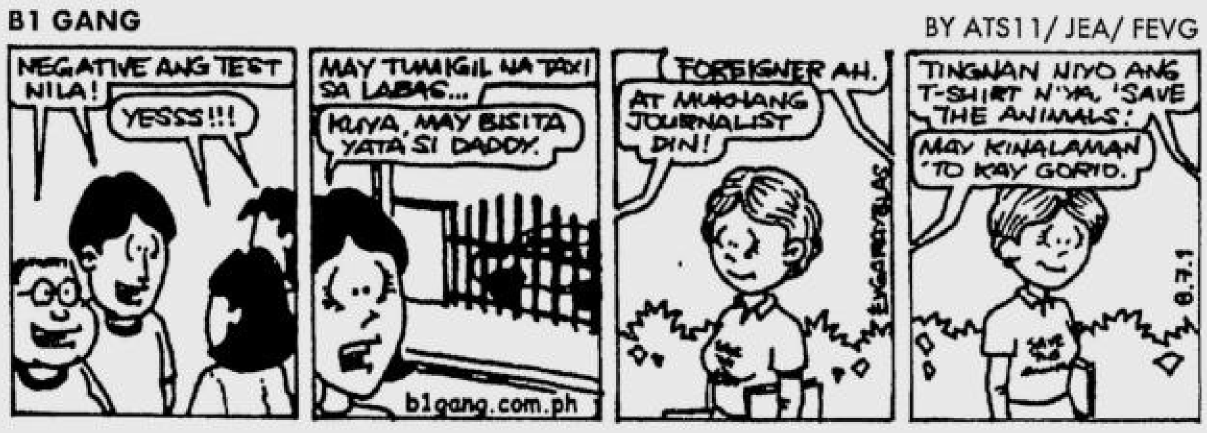
## SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BOBOTO KAMI SA INYO BASTA BIGYAN NYO KAMI NG TRABAHO!
ANO AN TRABAHO QUE GUSTO NYO!
KAHIT ANO BASTA MATAAS ANG SWELDO!
SINVERGUENZA
EDIONELA

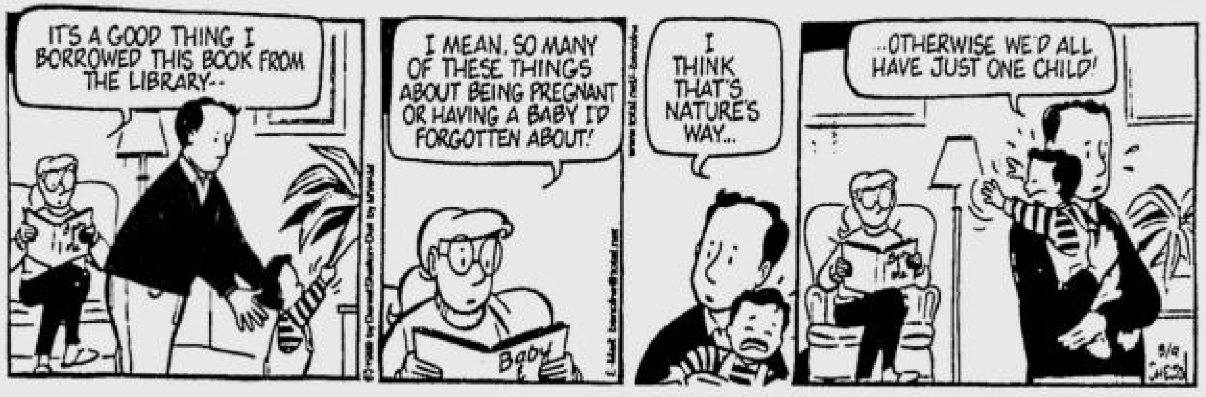
## B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


NEGATIVE ANG TEST NILA!
YESSS!!!
MAY TUMIGIL NA TAXI SA LABAS...
KUYA, MAY BISITA YATA SI DADDY.
b1gang.com.ph
FOREIGNER AH.
AT MUKHANG JOURNALIST DIN!
TINGNAN NIYO ANG T-SHIRT N'YA, 'SAVE THE ANIMALS'.
MAY KINALAMAN 'TO KAY GORIO.
6.7.1

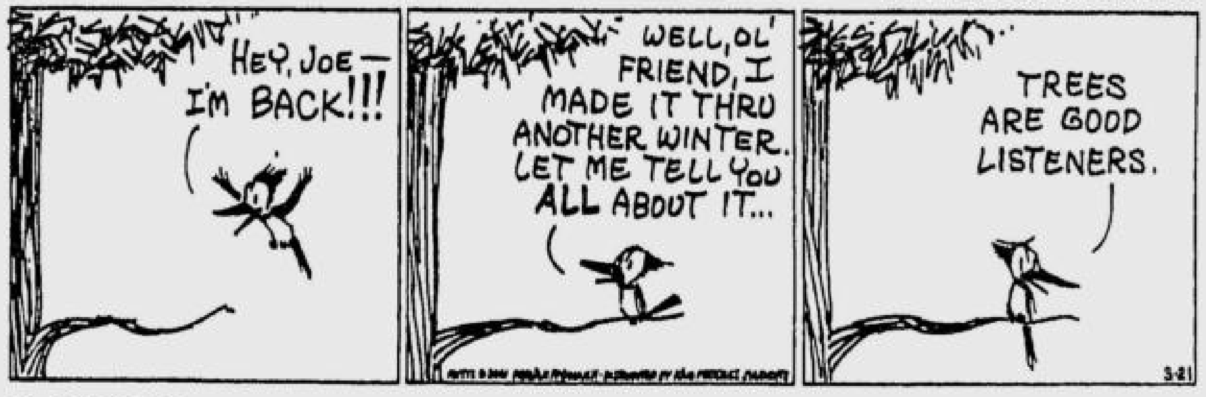
## BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IT'S A GOOD THING I BORROWED THIS BOOK FROM THE LIBRARY--
I MEAN, SO MANY OF THESE THINGS ABOUT BEING PREGNANT OR HAVING A BABY I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT!
BABY
I THINK THAT'S NATURE'S WAY...
..OTHERWISE WE'D ALL HAVE JUST ONE CHILD!

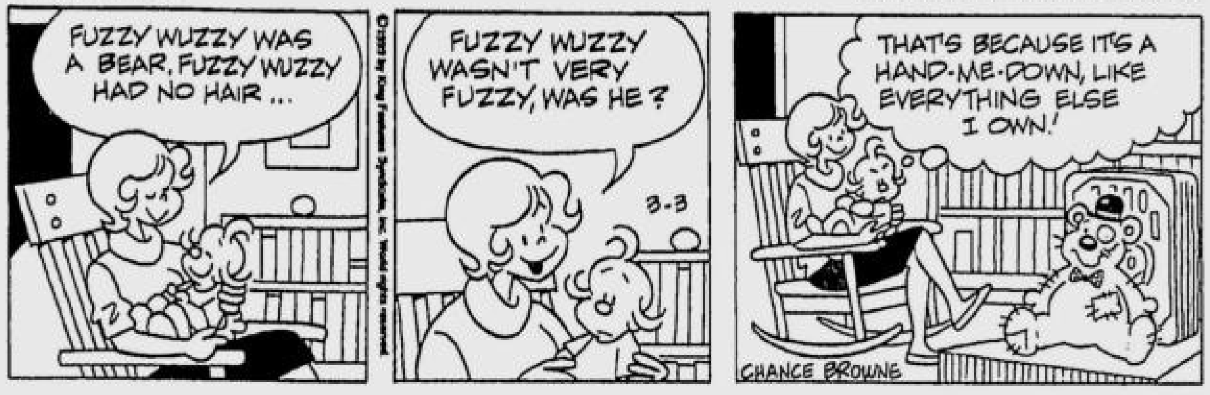
## MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY, JOE — I'M BACK!!!
WELL, OL' FRIEND, I MADE IT THRU ANOTHER WINTER. LET ME TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT...
TREES ARE GOOD LISTENERS.
3-21

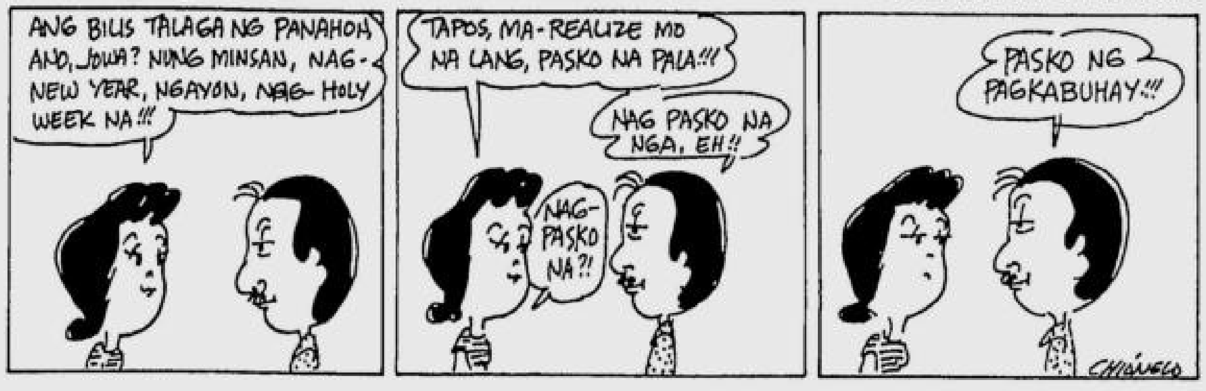
## HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


FUZZY WUZZY WAS A BEAR, FUZZY WUZZY HAD NO HAIR ...
FUZZY WUZZY WASN'T VERY FUZZY, WAS HE?
3-3
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S A HAND-ME-DOWN, LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE I OWN!
CHANCE BROWNE

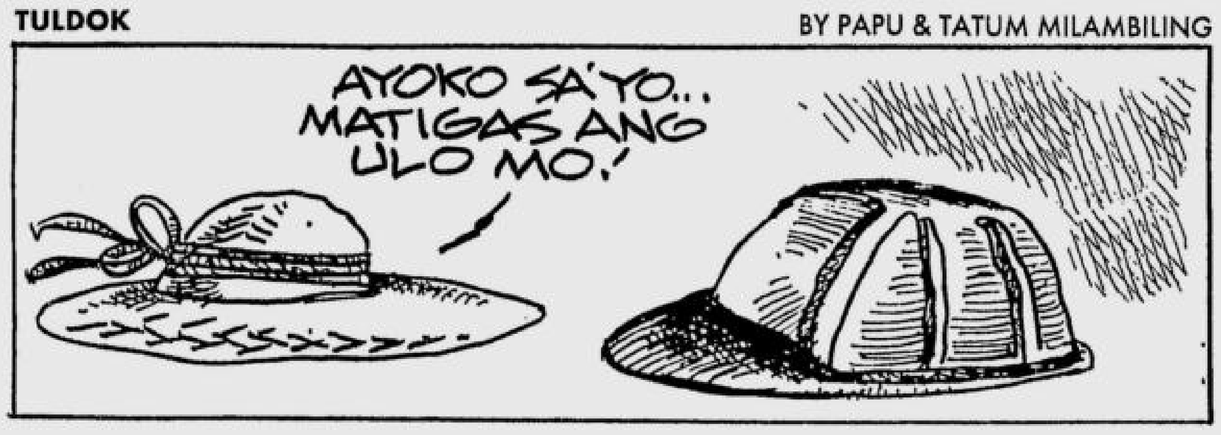
## LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

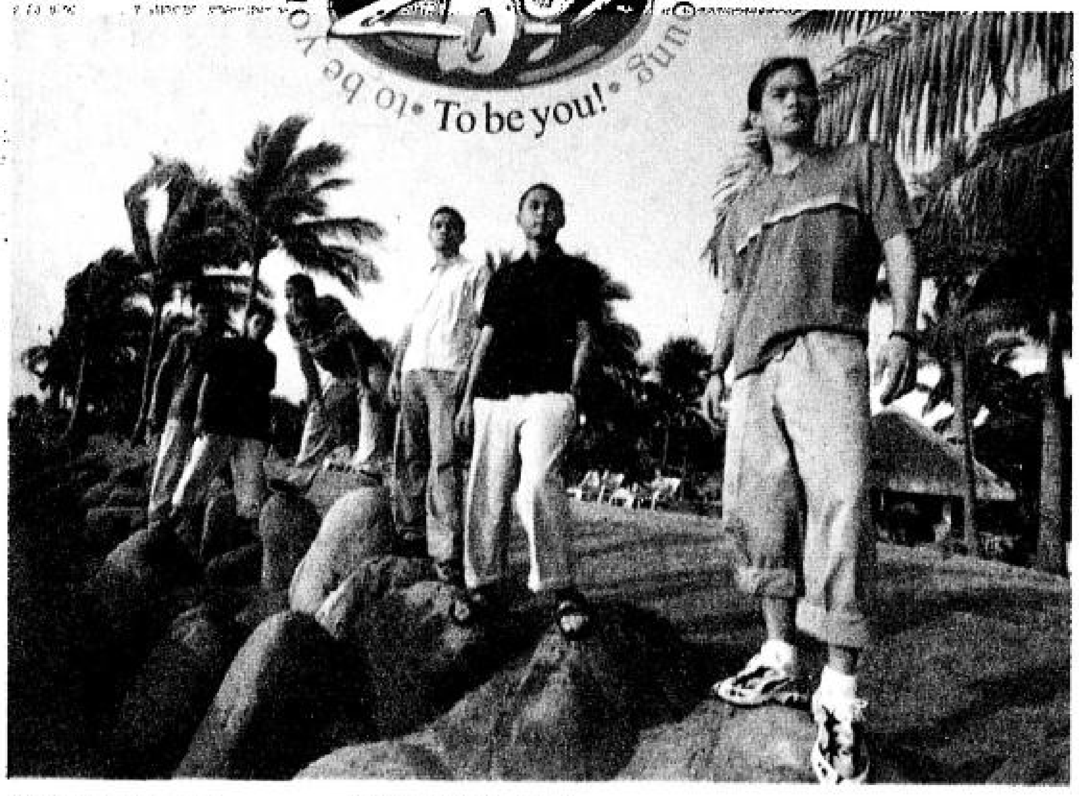

ANG BILIS TALAGA NG PANAHON ANO, JOWA? NUNG MINSAN, NAG-NEW YEAR, NGAYON, NAG-HOLY WEEK NA!!!
TAPOS, MA-REALIZE MO NA LANG, PASKO NA PALA!!!
NAG PASKO NA NGA, EH!!
NAG-PASKO NA?!
PASKO NG PAGKABUHAY!!!
CHIONGLO

## TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


AYOKO SA'YO... MATIGAS ANG ULO MO.'

2bU! to be young • to be you • to be young • To be you!



**FEAST** your eyes and take your pick.

CLOTHES BY SARI SARI STORE
VENUE: POOLSIDE, THE WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA
PHOTOS: VAL HANDUMON

# UP soccer's spice boys

(From page E1)

David among his peers in the world of collegiate football. Patrick Velasco, whose soccer hero is Mendietta, tried hard not to sweat under the scorching summer heat. Paolo Manuel, one of UAAP Football's certified heartthrobs, smiled and grinned like a pro. John Guzman looked like he preferred taking a dip in the pool than making a quarter turn pose. When asked what their pre-game ritual was, Dominic Bautista jokingly replied, "We drink!"

We at 2bU!, especially Tammy, barely felt the heat as we watched the football players play models for an afternoon. Despite the blazing afternoon sun, the guys were very cool.

They were indeed a sight for sore eyes.

One sage boy watcher once told this writer that among the athletes, football players are definitely the most gorgeous. So feast your eyes on these pictures and we leave it up to you to decide on that.

**UP** close with UAAP Football champs

**LOOK** closely and guess who hamm[illegible] it up bigtime for the photographer.

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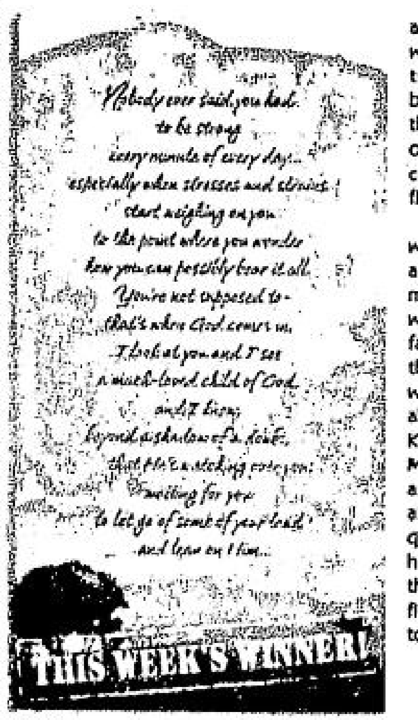
Hallmark

WAVE 89.1
www.wave891.fm

2bU! Lifestyle Teen Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

## The Between You and Me "Cardspeak" Contest!



Nobody ever said you had
to be strong
every minute of every day...
especially when stresses and strains
start weighing on you
to the point where you wonder
how you can possibly bear it all.
You're not supposed to -
that's where God comes in.
I look at you and I see
a much-loved child of God,
and I know
beyond a shadow of a doubt,
that He's watching over you:
waiting for you
to let go of some of your load
and lean on Him...

THIS WEEK'S WINNER!

*Inside:*
*I also see someone I care about and want to help any way I can... and I hope you'll let me.*
*Just remember, you're not alone and you never will be.*

The first semester of my sophomore year was a series of setbacks. Our Lola died just before the beginning of classes. I mourned but soon there was no time left to grieve. I was tasked to be the project head of one of the biggest events in school. I was also taking up Calculus, one of the hardest subjects in my curriculum.

I oftentimes found myself crying and asking God why Lola had to die while I was away. My self-esteem was trampled by numerous problems brought in by the preparations for the school event. Everyday, I agonized over Math problems that I never correctly solved. I felt alone. It was my first time to be away from my family.

I called my Nanay and her solacing words meant a lot to me. My Tatay and Kuya Niño constantly e-mailed me their certitude that I could do it. I was somehow rehabilitated by my family's response. Towards the end of the semester, though, I still felt like I was a total wreck. Just when I was about to see myself as a total failure, Kuya sent me this **Between You and Me** card. He has always been sweet and thoughtful and this card said it all. Kuya gave me answers to my questions. My family might not be here but I know that God will see me through this difficult time and He will find a way to keep me and my family together despite the distance.

- Crystal Joy O. Rebucas
Eliazo Residence Hall
Ateneo de Manila University
1108 Loyola Heights,
Quezon City

Congrats, Crystal!
You and Niño won this!

swatch
crazy train (GG 194)

Let *Hallmark's Between You & Me* do the talking! Send us the most memorable Between You & Me card you received (actual card) and tell us why it means so much to you in 300 words or less. One lucky winner will win two cool *Swatch* watches per week! (One for you and one for the person who sent you the card). Mail your entries to Filstar Distributors Corporation 3/F Team Pacific Bldg. 13 Jose Cruz St. Ugong, Pasig City 1604. Please include your name, address & contact number. *2bU! & Hallmark* will not be responsible for lost, misdirected or late entries. All unclaimed entries will become the property of Filstar. Winners may claim their prizes at the Filstar office. Contest ends May 16, 2001. Catch *Joe D'Mango's Love Notes* every Friday (10:00 am) at *WAVE 89.1* as he reads your favorite Between You & Me cards and every Sunday in Inquirer's Lifestyle section.

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jeans · shorts
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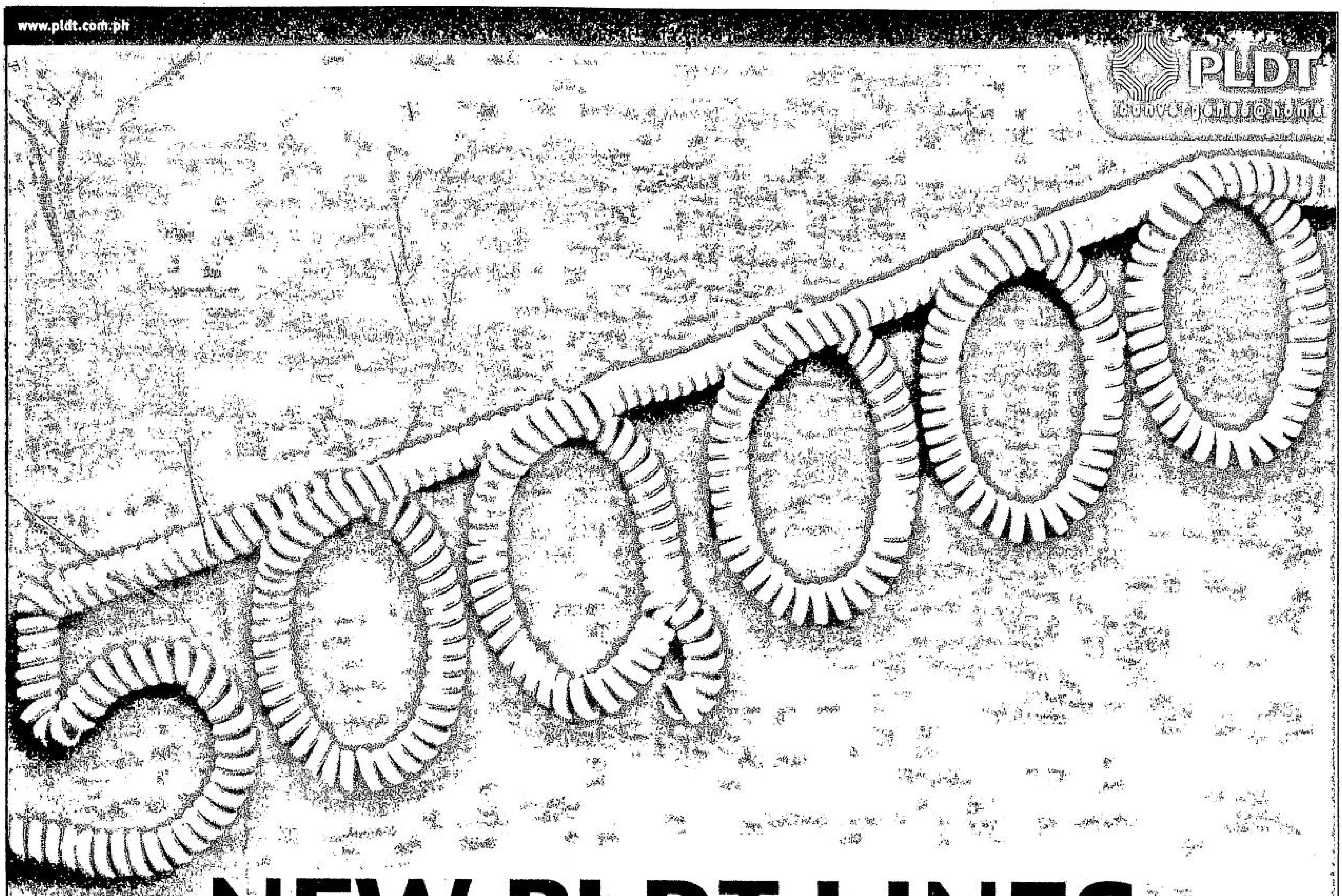
PLDT



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  - ₱ 1,700 for Teletipid
  - ₱ 3,500 for business lines
- Free TXT 135 activation
- Free Caller ID activation*
- 50% off on cost of Caller ID unit**

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|---|---|---|
| Greater Metro Manila | Alabang | 50,332 |
| | Balara | 20,587 |
| | Binondo | 30,893 |
| | Caloocan | 7,476 |
| | Las Piñas | 32,415 |
| | Malabon | 13,590 |
| | Muntinlupa | 8,182 |
| | North Parañaque | 19,567 |
| | Paco | 14,556 |
| | Pamplona | 27,816 |
| | Pasay | 40,008 |
| | Quiapo | 21,275 |
| | San Pedro | 18,119 |
| | South Parañaque | 13,231 |
| | South Taguig | 7,057 |
| | South Triangle | 19,174 |
| | Tambo | 34,797 |
| | **Available GMM Lines** | 378,715 |

| LUZON | LOCATION | AVAILABLE LINES |
|---|---|---|
| North Luzon | Balanga | 3,694 |
| | BEPZA | 1,488 |
| | Orion | 701 |

| VISAYAS | LOCATION | AVAILABLE LINES |
|---|---|---|
| Bacolod | Bacolod | 7,772 |
| | Bata | 163 |
| | La Castellana | 45 |
| | Mansilingan | 291 |
| | Tangub | 57 |
| Iloilo | Banate | 314 |
| | Dingle | 257 |
| | La Paz | 12,517 |
| | Manduriao | 1,756 |
| Cebu/ Jones | South Cebu | 17,042 |

| MINDANAO | LOCATION | AVAILABLE LINES |
|---|---|---|
| Davao Metro | Calinan | 293 |
| | Cotabato | 8,502 |
| | Dinaig | 579 |
| | Isulan | 592 |
| | Mintal | 1,063 |
| | Matina | 10,556 |
| | Panabo | 9,799 |
| | Panakan | 230 |
| | Parang | 227 |
| | Sasa | 8,514 |
| | Sultan Kudarat | 413 |
| | Tacurong | 960 |
| | Toril | 3,240 |
| Davao Central | Buhangin | 3,768 |
| | Davao Central | 19,218 |
| | Maa | 189 |
| Zamboanga | Oroquieta | 1,077 |
| | Ozamis | 2,741 |
| | Tagoloan | 1,305 |
| | Zamboanga | 7,172 |
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